

The cover of the journal 'animals&men' features a photograph of a blue dog, likely a dingo, standing in a natural, rocky environment. The dog is the central focus, with its head lowered and its body angled towards the left. The background is a blurred natural setting with rocks and foliage.

animals&men

THE JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE FOR FORTEAN ZOOLOGY

ISSUE 38

£3.00

The Blue Dog of Elmendorf; The Original 'Gorilla'; Big cats in Australia; Cyclops cat; News, Reviews and more.....

Animals & Men is the quarterly journal of the
Centre for Fortean Zoology; a non profit
making organisation administered by:



CFZ, Myrtle Cottage,
Woolfardisworthy, Bideford
North Devon, Ex39 5QR,
England

Tel fax: 01237 431413
web site: <http://www.cfz.org.uk>
email: cfz@eclipse.co.uk

CONTENTS:

- 3 Editorial
- 4 Faculty of the CFZ
- 6 Newsfile
- 17 Obituaries
- 20 Nick Redfern's Letter from America
- 23 Mystery Cat Diary
- 25 Big cats in the bush
- 29 Aquatic monster study group
- 33 Bigfoot notebook
- 38 The original 'Gorilla'

- 43 Cyclops cat
- 44 COVER STORY: The bald dog
- 50 CFZ People
- 51 Letters
- 57 Reviews
- 59 The Sycophant
- 60 Cartoon by Mark North

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a 4-issue (one year) subscription:
£12 UK £11 EC
£20 US Canada Oz NZ
(airmail)
£24 Rest of World.

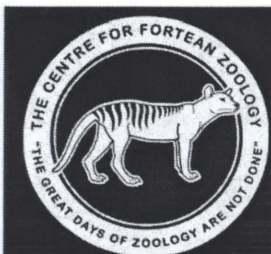
METHODS OF PAYMENT

Subscription rates INCLUDE postage. On other orders, postage and packing is extra: please add 25p (£0.30 outside UK) per magazine and 75p (£0.90 outside UK) per book. Payment can be made in UK cash,, Euro-cheque, or a cheque drawn on a UK bank. Britain is one of the few countries in the world where US dollars do **not** circulate. If making payment in US\$ then please add \$14 to cover the currency exchange fee.



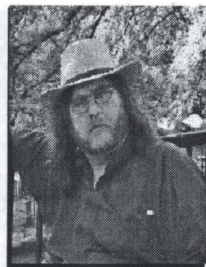
Payment by credit card through our *Paypal* account (Jon@eclipse.co.uk). Please make all cheques payable to Jonathan Downes

The CFZ Trust is registered as a non profit making organisation with HM Stamp Office. The trustees are J.Downes; R. Freeman & G.Inglis. Charitable status is pending



EDITORIAL

jonathan downes



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another edition of *Animals & Men*. It seems these days as if so much is happening at the CFZ that there just are not enough pages in the magazine (or indeed, minutes in the day), to deal with it all.

First the sad news. As you are all probably aware, my father died at 6.30 in the morning on Valentine's Day. He was 81. I would like to thank all the CFZ members who sent kind messages of condolence, and even turned up at the funeral. My father was a Naval man and had been instrumental in setting up the International Sea Cadet Corps, and so it was fitting that there was an honour guard from the Bideford Sea Cadets lining the path from the lych gate to the church. As eldest son and chief mourner, I led the procession that followed the coffin down to the church, and I was incredibly touched to find that as the cortege entered the church porch, there, lining the walls was a second honour guard- from the CFZ.

In life, and now in death, my father has been important within the CFZ. I have now inherited a 50% share of the old family home, and assuming that there are no problems with the mortgage application (and my financial advisors assure me that there won't be), I will soon own my brother's share. The CFZ now has a permanent home in rural North Devon. We will be converting outbuildings into a museum, and there will also be a small laboratory. The CFZ will finally have a proper CENTRE from which to carry out its activities.

But, my father's involvement does not end there! During his last months, I cared for him so that he would not have to spend his last months in a nursing home. I could not have done this without the sterling work of the CFZ team who showed unbelievable levels of compassion in what they did for the old boy.

I remember one night, just before Christmas, Richard F and I were sitting by Dad's bed talking about the forthcoming expedition to The Gambia. Dad became very interested in this project; he had spent years in West Africa, and the idea of dragon-hunting in mangrove swamps appealed to him very much. He told me privately that he was going to make a donation to the CFZ in order to help fund the expedition. Sadly, he died before he was able to do this.

Therefore, with the full agreement of my brother, 50% of the money donated at Dad's funeral was given to the Gambia Expedition, which was renamed the "J.T.Downes Memorial West Africa Expedition 2006".

The team returned from Gambia late last night, and as I write this I am expecting their triumphant return to Woolsery. There will be a book of the expedition available soon, and my dear, late father will have a modicum of cryptozoological immortality. I think he would have been quite chuffed at that..

Slainte

Jonathan Downes
(Director, CFZ)

THE FACULTY OF THE CENTRE FOR FORTEAN ZOOLOGY



"In her abnormalities, nature reveals her secrets." (Goethe)

PERMANENT DIRECTORATE

Hon. Life President:

Colonel John Blashford-Snell

Director:

Jonathan Downes

Deputy Director:

Graham Inglis

Zoological Director:

Richard Freeman

Assistant Director/Resident

Artist:

Mark North

Online Services: Oliver Lewis

Administration: John Fuller

Tour Manager and PA to Director:

Nigel Wright

American Office: Nick Redfern

BOARD OF CONSULTANTS

Zoological Consultant:

Chris Moiser

Zoological Consultant:

Dr Lars Thomas

Palaentological Consultant:

Darren Naish

Ichthyological Consultant:

Charles Paxton

Cryptozoology Consultant:

Dr Karl Shuker

Cryptozoology Consultant:

Loren Coleman

Consultant Art Historian:

Dr Gail-Nina Anderson

Photographic Consultant:

Paul Crowther

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

England

Avon: Tracey Sharples
Bedfordshire: Paul Vella
Buckinghamshire: Paul Vella
Cambridgeshire: Neal McKenna
Cornwall: Paul Crowther
Cumbria: Brian Goodwin
Devon: Chris Moiser
Dorset: Mark North
Co. Durham: Dave Curtis
Hampshire: Darren Naish
Hertfordshire: Paul Vella
Kent: Neil Arnold
Lancashire: Rob Whitehead
Leicestershire: Mike Playfair
Lincolnshire: Corinna James
Greater London: Rachel Carthy
Home Counties: Dave Churchill
Greater Manchester: Tim Matthews
Merseyside: Joe Leather
Northants: Paul Vella
Oxfordshire: Mark Lewin
Staffordshire: Lisa Dowley
Surrey: Nick Smith
Tyneside: Mike Hollowell
West Midlands: Dr Karl Shuker
Wiltshire: Matthew Williams
Yorkshire: Steve Jones
Yorkshire (South): Mark Martin

Scotland

Aberdeen: Tom Anderson
Ayrshire: Mark Fraser

Wales

Oliver Lewis

Northern Ireland

Gary Cunningham
Ronan Coghlan

USA

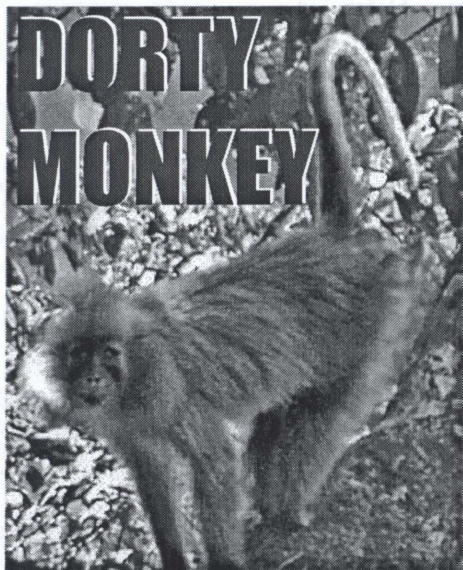
California: Greg Bishop
California: Dianne Hamann
Indiana: Elizabeth Clem
Illinois: Jessica Dardeen
Missouri: Kenn Thomas
Ohio: Chris Kraska
New York State: Peter Robbins
North Carolina: Shane Lea
Texas: Chester Moore
Wisconsin: Felinda Bullock

INTERNATIONAL

Australia: Tim the Yowie Man
Australia: Mike Williams
Denmark: Lars Thomas
France: Francois de Sarre
Germany: Wolfgang Schmidt
New Zealand: Peter Hassall
Switzerland: Georges Massey

NEWSFILE

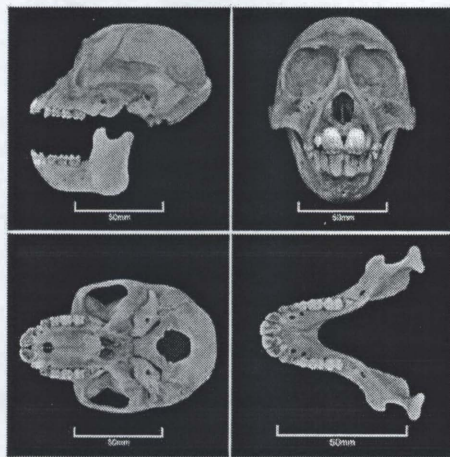
Edited and Compiled by Richard Freeman & Jon Downes



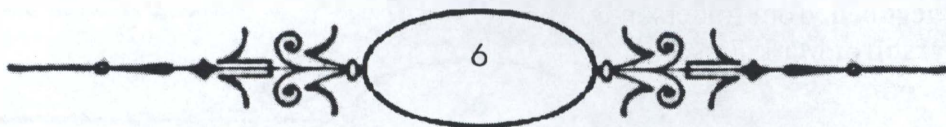
Scientists have described a new genus of monkey - the first for 83 years. The *Rungwecebus kipunji* sports a distinctive Mohawk stripe of hair, and is found in Tanzania. The monkey, first described from photographs last year, was originally thought to be a new species but tests reveal it is even more special. The international team, writing in the journal *Science Express*, warns that the animal is already under threat from logging and hunting. The monkey is found in two high-altitude remote locations in Tanzania: the Rungwe-Livingstone forest in the Southern Highlands and the Ndundulu Forest in the Udzungwa Mountains.

Known locally as Kipunji, it stands at about 90cm (3ft) tall, is grey-brown in colour with off-white fur on its stomach and on the tip of its long curly

tail, and has a crest of long hair on the top of its head. Adults have a distinctive call, described as a "honk-bark". When scientists spotted the animals in 2005, they originally placed them in the *Lophocebus* genus, commonly known as managabeys, but they were only able to study them from photographs. However, the discovery of a dead Kipunji in a farmer's trap, meant more extensive genetic and morphological tests could take place. Tim Davenport, lead author of the paper, who is from the Wildlife Conservation Society and is based in Tanzania, said: *"We first came across the monkey a couple of years ago - the realisation that it was a new species was really exciting. Since then we knew it would only be a matter of time before we got hold of a dead animal - because they are hunted - and once we had and we started looking at it more closely, we realised it was a new genus. That was just incredible - it is something that really*



NEW AND REDISCOVERED

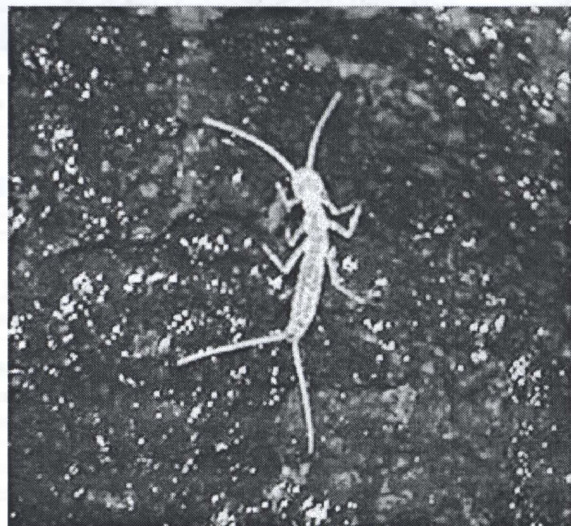


doesn't happen that often." Bill Stanley, an author on the paper, and mammal collections manager at the Field Museum, Chicago, US, said hearing the news that the monkey belonged to a new genus "sent shivers down my spine".

"Simply put, the genetics said that it was closely related to baboons, but the skull wasn't anything like a baboon. The conclusions we drew from the genetic and morphological data, meant that it had to be named as a new genus."

Troglodyte Times

Back in 2000 Richard Freeman stumbled on what might be a new species of luminous gnat lava in a cave in northwest Thailand. No one has ever been back to search for them. But caves systems seem to be a great way of finding odd new species as the following accounts show.



The Descent

Craig Wagnell was actually trying to take a picture of something very, very old when he accidentally snapped a shot of something he believes is completely new. Wagnell, who heads up the Central Island Caving Club, found *Campodeid diplurans* in 2004, but only now is revealing its existence after receiving strong support for his contention that he is on to something entirely new. The cave, the exact location of which he's keeping under wraps, is a treasure trove of fossils that literally stick out of the walls, with the soft limestone worn away around them.

"They were perfect shells extruded out of the rock," he says. *"I was taking pictures of some of the ammonites and I noticed a little white bug running across my field."* After searching on the Internet and networking with various experts, he got in touch with Dr. Lynn Ferguson, who is professor emeritus of Biology and Earth Sciences at Virginia's Longwood University. He sent a photo of the creature to Dr. Ferguson, who expressed keen interest in the find and urged him to capture a live specimen.

"He told me to use blue cheese in live traps, because diplurans eat organic matter that washes into the caves," Wagnell says. *"None of my traps worked, but while I was checking I looked to the side and noticed another white thing running around."* Wagnell was able to collect a total of six specimens.

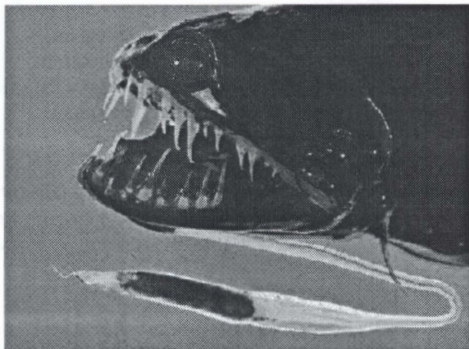
The Cave

Also underground, researchers have identified a whole new genus of cricket

in caves in Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in northwestern Arizona. The discovery was made by Northern Arizona University doctoral candidate J. Judson Wynne and National Park Service researcher Kyle Voyles. The new genus has yet to be named. It was identified by cricket expert Theodore Cohn of San Diego State University. Most crickets have a pair of non-clasping cerci at their hind ends. The new-found genus has cerci that do clasp, Wynne said in a telephone interview. The plate that covers its reproductive zone is also unlike any known on other crickets.

I Must go Down to the Sea Again.

In the permanently dark waters beneath the Bermuda Triangle, scientists have uncovered a remarkably diverse range of extraordinary sea creatures. Many of the new species could shed light on the state of the world's oceans. Retrieving tiny sea animals - zooplankton - at depths of up to three miles, and even reading their genetic codes on a rolling sea, scientists carrying out a census of marine life have revealed new details about the role of these fragile creatures in the climate and food chain, from fish to whales. Among the thousands captured, 500 species have been catalogued and 220 of them have had their DNA sequences analysed on board the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ship Ronald H Brown to reveal up to 20 new species. *"We are charting the plankton in the sea like astronomers chart the stars in the sky,"* said the cruise's scientific leader, Dr Peter Wiebe, the senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. *"With the zooplankton chart, we can*



"They also found possible new species of black dragonfish"

assess what changes, man-made and natural, are taking place in the largest habitat on Earth." The 20-day cruise, which ended on April 30, is part of an ambitious global inventory of all species of zooplankton, which is expected to double from the current number of 7,000 by 2010.

Also captured were more than 120 fish species, including rare male anglerfishes, which use their jaws and teeth to attach themselves, like parasites, to the much larger females. They also found possible new species of black dragonfish, and what may be a new fish known as "the great swallower".

Previously unknown species of hammerhead shark discovered

Scientists from Nova Southeastern University and the University of South Carolina have discovered a previously unknown species of hammerhead shark in the southeastern Atlantic. The species - as yet unnamed - so closely resembles the scalloped hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) that the only ways to tell them apart are to compare DNA, and count vertebrae. Mahmood Shivji, director of the Guy Harvey Research Institute at the NSU Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, says the two species share the same waters but do not interbreed. Shivji adds that the cryptic, or unrecognized species, may be less abundant than the scalloped, making it more susceptible to fishing pressure. *"They're catching these things they don't know they're catching," Shivji said. "You could wipe out a whole genetic lineage if you are not managing these species separately."*

Hammerhead sharks, of which there are believed to be eight species, occur worldwide. In U.S. waters, hammerheads are managed under the umbrella of 11 large coastal shark species - not including those on the federal prohibited species list. Commercial fishing for large coastal sharks is regulated through seasons and quotas. The practice of finning - cutting off a shark's fins and discarding the carcass - is illegal in the United States but widely practiced around the world because fins are believed to have aphrodisiacal and medical benefits. Hammerheads are particularly vulnerable because their fins are worth hundreds of dollars per kilogram at markets in the Far East, while their meat is much less valued. As a result, hammerhead abundance in the western Atlantic is believed to have declined by 89 percent since the mid-1980s, according to a study by researchers at Canada's

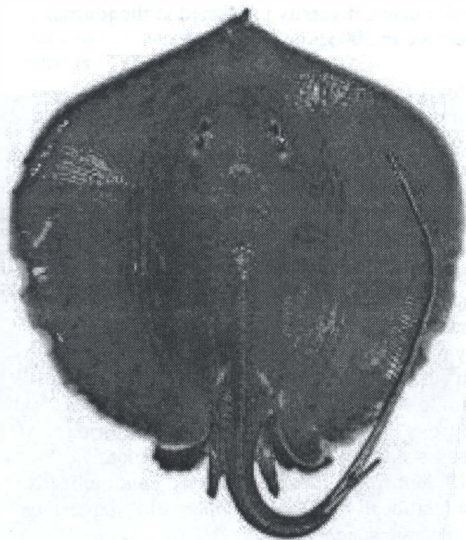
Dalhousie University published in the journal Science in 2003.

Shivji and his NSU colleagues are at the forefront of using genetics to identify sharks exploited in the international fin trade, which is how they stumbled on the previously unknown species of hammerhead. In trying to develop a DNA forensic marker for scalloped hammerheads, they collected 143 samples of *Sphyrna lewini* from around the world. They were puzzled to find that the test worked on all the sharks except for three, which were caught by recreational anglers off Fort Lauderdale. At first, the scientists thought something was wrong with their forensic marker. But more extensive testing on the three South Florida sharks showed their DNA was completely different from all other scalloped hammerheads caught locally and around the world, suggesting a separate species.

Not to be out done freshwater has some surprises as well.....

Sting in the tail

A new species of freshwater stingray has been discovered in a river in western Thailand, but its chances for long-term survival are slim, a report says. The stingray, measuring 60 centimeters (23.6 inches) in width, was first observed two years ago but was only recently described by Thai and American scientists, said a release from the World Wide Fund for Nature-Thailand. *"Local participatory conservation is urgently needed for the survival of this new stingray,"* the release said. Thai rivers, including the Mae Klong River where the ray is found, have been plagued by serious pollution, overfishing, and dam building, which have taken a deadly toll on Thailand's once diverse and abundant river life.



The ray is believed to exist in small numbers. The new species has been named *Himantura kittipong* after prominent Thai fish expert Kittipong Jaruthanin who first observed the ray in 2004. WWF freshwater biologist Chavalit Vidthayanon and Tyson Roberts of the Smithsonian Institute described the species.

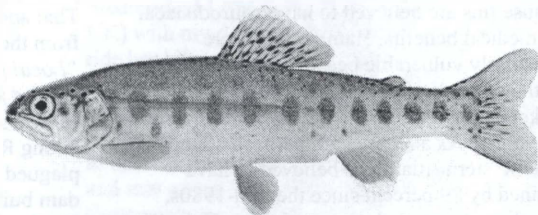
The landscape of our minds

A team of scientists believe they have discovered an undocumented species of trout high in the mountains of Mexico. The "Conchos Trout," as the team has called it, was discovered in 2005, and initial responses from the scientific community have supported the team's conclusions. *"People are agreeing this is probably a new fish,"* said Frank

Pfeifer, who retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004 before joining the research team on a trip to Mexico in 2005. The team is waiting on the completion of DNA work that will verify the trout's difference from other species, but visually, Pfeifer said, the differences aren't *"too drastic"* but are noticeable.

The spotting patterns on the fish are different than other trout, with heavier spotting on the back end of the fish. There's a yellow coloration on the Conchos trout's stomach, more yellow than a cutthroat trout. White fringes outline the trout's fins. The research team visited trout habitats in the upper tributaries of the Rao Conchos of Chihuahua, Mexico, looking for a native and "undescribed" trout species starting in 1997. The team had a hunch such a fish would exist in the area, based on long-lost evidence from a professor at Vanderbilt University in the 1880s. The professor never formally described the species, and the specimens of the fish were lost. *"When we found the Conchos trout, we thought we knew what we were looking at from the historical accounts from the 1880s,"* Pfeifer said. *"We don't have any way of proving this is the same fish they were talking about back then, but we believe it's the same type of trout."*

The fish, which swims in the cold freshwater at



elevations of 7,500 feet, is now highly endangered, researchers with the team say. Through interviews with the Rar Aimuri Indians, who live largely undisturbed by modern technologies, the team learned that the species was in decline.

'YOU WILL MEASURE A CIVILIZATION BY ITS FROGS'

Charles Fort

You want to find a new frog species? Head to the Southeast Asian nation of Laos. Scientists working in conjunction with the New York-based World Conservation Society, or WCS, say they have discovered eight new species of frogs in the past two years. Among them is one where the male is half the size of the female and another which has a row of spines running down its belly. Their findings were reported earlier this year in *Copeia*, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and in other peer-reviewed scientific journals since 2004. *"Nobody has really paid much attention to Laos in terms of amphibian and reptile research,"* Bryan Stuart, whose team made the discoveries, told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"So the amphibian fauna of Laos is much more poorly understood compared with neighboring countries. Almost every one of my field trips has yielded species unknown to science," he said. The frogs are the latest new species to come out of the tiny, landlocked Asian country. Many are found in Laotian forests, largely unexplored by outsiders because of the geographic remoteness and the country's history of political turmoil.

"These frogs are not living in rice paddies or

near villages. They are living in intact forests," he said.

"When forests are cleared, we're losing this piece of biodiversity that we may never have known existed," he said. *"I can't think of any tropical region where there isn't a threat to intact forest. Certainly, there is forest destruction in Laos."*

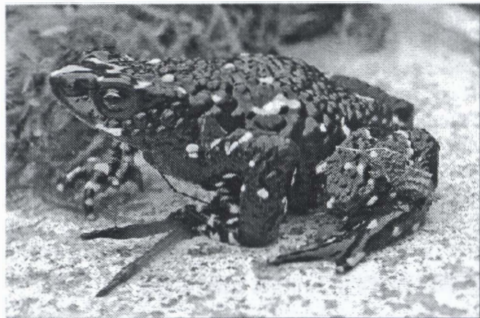
Rediscovery in remote Colombia

Scientists have sighted a spectacular South American frog which had been feared extinct for a decade.

The painted frog is found only in a small remote region of Colombia, and the last sighting dates back to 1995. Conservationists believed it had gone extinct, principally due to a fungal disease, chytridiomycosis, which has caused enormous harm to many species. The team behind the rediscovery say it gives hope that other amphibians may be able to survive fungal attack.

Chytridiomycosis is the main reason behind the worldwide decline in amphibians, which sees about one third of all species threatened with extinction. The painted frog *Atelopus ebenoides marinkellei* is believed to exist only in the Boyaca region of Colombia. It belongs to a family which includes a number of species known as harlequin frogs. The internationally-recognised Red List of Threatened Species says of the painted frog that it *"...has not been recorded since 1995, despite attempts to locate it. It appears to have declined seriously, and has possibly disappeared."*

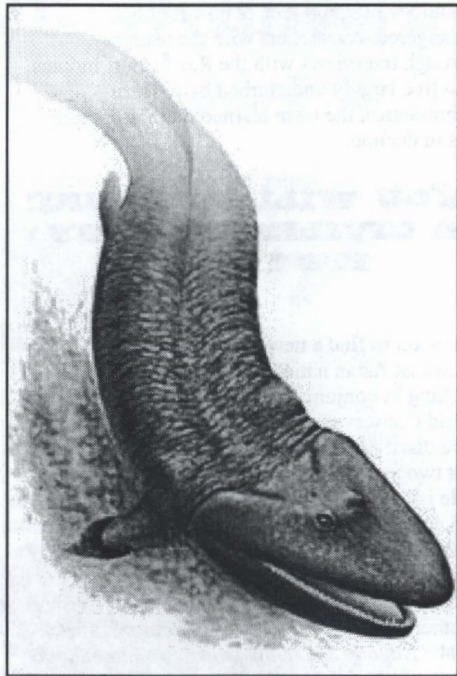
Now, however, it has re-appeared, spotted in early May by Professor Carlos Rocha and a



team of researchers from the Pedagogical and Technological University of Colombia (UPTC) in Boyaca. *"The scientific importance of the finding must motivate us to adopt urgent measures toward saving the last of these amphibians, both in the wild and through captive breeding programmes,"* said Fabio Arjona, executive director of Conservation International in Colombia, which supported Professor Rocha's expedition. *"That will require a lot of support from the local and international communities."*

African fish hunts on land

Biologists have found an unusual fish that swims in the swamps of tropical Africa, but can catch prey on dry land. The eel catfish catches insects and other prey on land by arching its body upwards out of the water and bringing its jaws down, trapping its prey against the ground. In the water, the eel catfish, like other fish, captures its food by opening up its mouth and sucking up its prey. Since this trick won't work on land, it had to adapt with a different hunting strategy. The catfish's neck is especially flexible, with specialized vertebrae that allow it to hold its head up out of the water without using fins. A team headed by Sam Van Wassenbergh of the University of Antwerp in Belgium submitted a



video of the eel catfish performing its feat in a lab setting for the journal *Nature*. The researchers speculate that a similar feeding strategy could have been used by the first vertebrates to emerge from the oceans.

Back on dry land, the discoveries keep rolling in as well...

Everest Expedition Uncovers Exotic Species

Mount Everest and the Himalaya mountain range conjure images of llamas and Sherpas loaded with heavy packs. But tucked into the

cold shadows of the world's tallest mountain are biologically diverse hotspots filled with poorly known plants and animals found nowhere else on the globe. Scientists from Conservation International and Disney's Animal Kingdom recently launched a two-month scientific expedition into six regions of the Tibetan "Sacred Lands" in the mountains of Southwest China and Nepal.

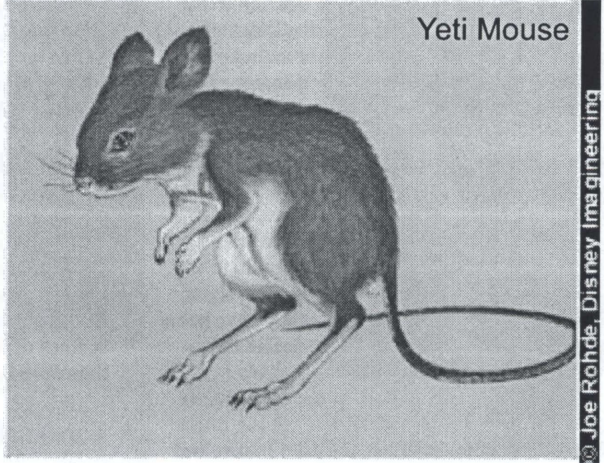
Today they announced the discovery of a pocket of the world, rich in extraordinary flora and fauna.

"The fact that we found so many new species in such a harsh environment, as well as documented several rare and endangered species is good news for these two regions," said Leeanne Alonso, the expedition's lead scientist and vice president of the CI's Rapid Assessment Program.

They say that their finds included:

- * Giant hornets so deadly locals call them "Yak Killers"
- * Jumping "Yeti" mice
- * A new grasshopper species in which the males hitch piggy-back rides on the females
- * Baby blue-faced golden monkeys, the region's largest primates
- * Hamster-like pikas that eat their own feces
- * A couple of new frog species, eight new insect species, and ten new species of ants to add the more than 11,000 already known.

The full results of the expedition will be shared with numerous governments, scientists, and



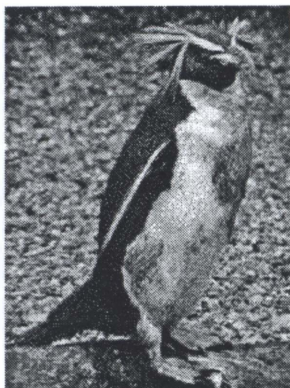
environmental and conservation organizations to develop strategies to protect the many unique species of the region.

"Local efforts by Tibetan communities through their sacred lands are helping to prevent these plants and animals from going extinct and demonstrate that cultural values can play an important role in conservation," Alonso said.

Editorial comment: "Baby blue-faced golden monkeys, the region's largest primates" hummmm I think the yeti might have something to say about that!

Seabirds in disguise

In a world full of disappearing or threatened species, here is some good news at last. The planet is about to welcome a new species of penguin. The birds - a few thousand small penguins on the French islands of Amsterdam and St Paul in the southern Indian Ocean -



resemble millions of rockhopper penguins found all around the northern fringe of the Antarctic. And thanks to the stubborn research of a French ornithologist, they have been declared a species in their own right.

Pierre Jouventin, scientist and film-maker and one of the world's foremost experts on penguins, first claimed that the Amsterdam and St Paul rockhoppers were a separate species 25 years ago. He pointed out that they had a mating song with deeper notes than their cousins elsewhere and that their beautiful, feathered eyebrows - one of the characteristics of all rockhoppers - were longer and bushier. His claims were dismissed by other ornithologists. Now, two years before his retirement, Mr Jouventin, 63, has been vindicated. In a forthcoming article in the magazine *Molecular Ecology* he will reveal



magazine *Molecular Ecology* he will reveal DNA tests which show that the Amsterdam and St Paul rockhoppers are a distinct species. M. Jouventin said: "It is an interesting discovery because it is not every day that you find a new species of bird this large." M. Jouventin said that his discovery might also help the birds to survive. Because they were now a separate type of penguin, with only a few thousand examples, they will instantly become a protected species. Collection and sale of their eggs will become illegal. The latin name of the new species is *Eudyptes moseleyi*. Previously they were a sub-species of rockhopper (*E. chrysocome*) and therefore *E. chrysocome moseleyi*.

Marsupial wolf in the fold

It was 3.30am on a mild January morning when North Coast resident Mick Stubbs watched a cat-like creature walk along a roadway near Mullumbimby and then duck under a fence before disappearing into the long grass. "In the first split second I said 'oh look, there's a fox' and then straight away I realised it was no fox because it had a huge long tail that was thin and even in length. I looked up the body and it was a long body, it looked very cat like, but obviously much larger than a cat, probably 700 millimetres high. The tail was a very long tail, it had a gold-coloured coat, and rounded ears, bright gold eyes in the headlights. It was definitely no canine animal. It was no dingo cross or no wild dog. I suppose I had a three or four seconds look at it. It was something like I have never seen before and it really took me back," Mr Stubbs said.

Since sighting the animal, Mr Stubbs says he has heard of more than ten other people who have reported a similar sighting on the North Coast.

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

"The Great Dividing Range has never been totally destroyed and somehow they have managed to extend their range back down to the coast, if they haven't always been here. Being nocturnal and probably very smart and able to range large distances, I don't put it beyond being a Thylacine. I have always been interested in the natural world, so that's why when I saw this creature, it was almost unbelievable, and that's why it has taken me this long to get my own head around what I actually saw. It turns out that I am not the only one to see strange looking larger predatory animals. I am a firm believer now, that as wild as it sounds, we have got a so-called extinct species in our midst," Mr Stubbs said.

In another story, the controversy surrounding the "thylacine" photographs originally taken by two German tourists, trundles on. A relative of the couple previously tried to sell the photos to Melbourne's *The Age* newspaper for about \$20,000. The pair have supplied the pictures to the Sunday Tasmanian for nothing, but they still want to be paid \$1000 if the images are published interstate. Experts, including the Sunday Tasmanian's chief photographer Leigh Winburn, have cast doubts over the authenticity of the blurry pictures because:

- # The images are blurred despite being taken by an auto-focus camera.
- # There is a discrepancy with the dates on the image and that of other images on the same camera.
- # The images are very reminiscent of a famous thylacine photograph taken in the 1930s.

The experts say current software packages mean such images can be made quite easily. But Klaus Emmerichs and Birgit Jansen stand by their claim, saying they took the photos while in the Cradle Mountain-Lake St Clair National Park on

February 3rd last year. The German couple confided in thylacine enthusiast Col Bailey about where they say they took the photographs. Mr Bailey visited the site last week and said he would now begin a thorough investigation. *"I'm 50/50 on this,"* Mr Bailey said. *"But I'm not about to discount it."* They say they flew to Tasmania from Melbourne on February 1 and caught a bus to Cradle Mountain.

They were keen to walk Tasmania's legendary Overland Track but found that they were ill-prepared for such a changeable and dramatic climate. On a freezing and wet evening they abandoned the track and headed back to the warmth and comfort of Cradle Mountain Lodge. The next day they had a Budget hire car brought to the lodge and late in the afternoon headed for Zeehan. They slept in the car on the side of the road. On the morning of February 3 they started touring the West Coast. At about 7.30pm, after a long day driving, they decided to find somewhere to park their car and sleep. They found a dirt road and pulled off to the side.

"We wanted to eat something and she [Birgit] must have water, we wanted to sleep there," Mr Emmerichs said. Mr Emmerichs said he could hear running water and walked down an embankment about 20m to a creek. There he saw an animal he said he had never seen before. *"I see him running, there was a log over the creek, he came snuffling along the ground,"* Mr Emmerichs said. A similar snuffling was coming from behind the log and Mr Emmerichs said he believed it may have been another one of the creatures. *"The same noise was coming from near the fallen tree,"* he said. *"I turned the camera on and it makes a noise when I turn it on and his head went up, I made one shot and then I take a second shot and he goes off in the bush. It was only about 30 seconds."*

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

A number of doubts about the images have been raised. Photographers consulted by the Sunday Tasmanian say the extent of blurring in the images is not consistent with autofocus on a modern digital camera. Mr Emmerichs, however, said the images are blurry because he used a function called night vision which simulates a slow shutter speed and allows pictures to be taken without flash in poor light. The function consistently produced blurry images and so the couple stopped using it. Another criticism of the images is that there is a discrepancy with the consecutive dates of the images. The photograph before the first thylacine image uses the abbreviation JAN for January. But the thylacine image uses the numeral 2 instead of FEB for February.

Mr Emmerichs said the discrepancy was caused by Birgit changing the format while on the plane to Tasmania. The camera was still set on German time and date and she tried to reset it coming into Tasmania.

There has also been some criticism of the images that they are very reminiscent of another famous thylacine photograph taken in the 1930s. A strange play of light has also been suggested as flash flare off a shiny surface. But Mr Emmerichs said the fact the photographs are embedded on the hardware in his Ricoh camera proves they have not been manipulated on a computer. He said he did not know he still had the images after leaving Melbourne last year.

The images were left with his brother on a CD taken from the camera's chip. *"But these images are still in the camera, we did not know until we got home,"* he said. Mr Emmerichs said he had watched in dismay from Germany as the saga of the photographs played out. *"We came back to get proof,"* he said.



The US military investigated building a "gay bomb", which would make enemy soldiers "sexually irresistible" to each other, government papers say. Other weapons that never saw the light of day include one to make soldiers obvious by their bad breath.

The US defence department considered various non-lethal chemicals meant to disrupt enemy discipline and morale. The 1994 plans were for a six-year project costing \$7.5m, but they were never pursued.

The US Air Force Wright Laboratory in Dayton, Ohio, sought Pentagon funding for research into what it called "harassing, annoying and 'bad guy'-identifying chemicals". The plans were obtained under the US Freedom of Information by the Sunshine Project, a group which monitors research into chemical and biological weapons.

OBITUARIES

John Tweddell Downes I.S.O (1925-2006)



were at the bedside. I held his hand whilst Richard - an army Padre - said the prayers for the dying. It was a very beautiful and spiritual moment, and it will take both of us a considerable time before we can put it all in perspective. I am sure that I shall write about my father at length, but for the moment, I would like to share with you the words I wrote the day after his passing.

Requiem

by Robert Louis Stevenson

*UNDER the wide and starry sky
Dig the grave and let me lie:
Glad did I live and gladly die,
And I laid me down with a will.
This be the verse you grave for me:
Here he lies where he long'd to be;
Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill.*

My father died at just after six thirty on
Valentine's Day. Richard - my brother - and I



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



John Downes was born in Plymouth in 1925. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1943 and served as a Communication's Officer during the Battle of the Atlantic. He returned to shore in 1947, and after marrying his childhood sweetheart Mary, worked for the Ministry of Agriculture in North Devon. In 1952 he joined the Colonial Service in Nigeria and together with Mary, worked in some of the most isolated parts of North Nigeria on the southern borders of the Sahara Desert. Often they were the first Europeans to have visited these remote regions for over half a century.

In 1960 John was transferred to Hong Kong where he rose to the rank of Assistant Colonial Secretary, and as a commissioned officer in the Royal Naval Reserve, founded the Hong Kong Sea Cadet Corps. His outstanding work within the Civil Service was duly recognised when he was made a companion to the Queen and awarded the Imperial Service Order.

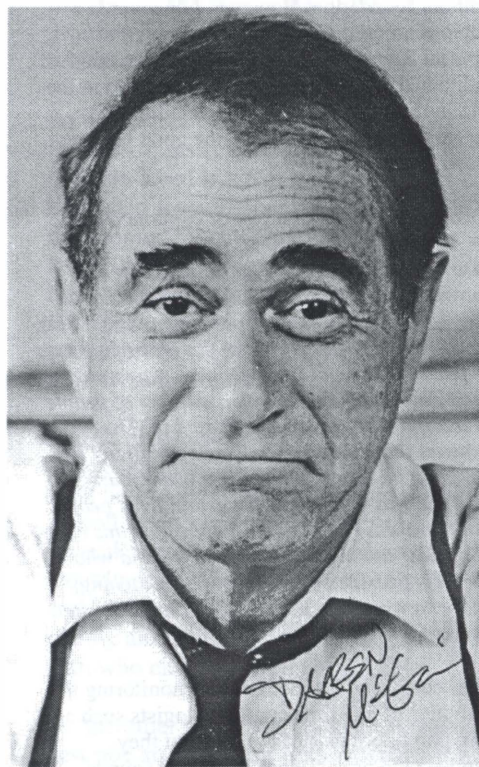
Unfortunately John was forced to take early retirement on medical grounds in 1971, and he and Mary spent the rest of their lives together in Woolfardisworthy, North Devon, where they quickly earned the respect and love of the local community. John became a financial manager for many local businesses, and was a tireless pillar of the community and church. He renewed his love of the sea by becoming the Commanding Officer of *TS Revenge*, the Bideford Sea Cadet Corps and became an inspiration for generations of young people.

During his retirement, John became an acknowledged author and was an expert in such diverse areas as African History, and Devonshire dialect. He was the

author of several books including *'A Dictionary of Devonshire Dialect'* (1988), *'Granfer's Bible Stories'* (2005) and *'Fragrant Harbours, Distant Rivers'* (2006). He was widowed in 2002, and after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, died peacefully in North Devon District Hospital on Tuesday February 14th aged 81. He is survived by his two sons, Jonathan Downes, (46) - Director of the Centre for Fortean Zoology - and The Rev'd Richard Downes BEM CF (42), a Chaplain to the Forces in the Army. **Jonathan Downes**

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

Darren McGavin 1922-2006



I make no bones about the fact that I don't like American TV science fiction and fantasy shows. Star Trek and its increasingly dull offshoots are SciFi painting by numbers. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* is an infantile teen soap opera. American SciFi is about dull characters playing by the rules. The one big exception is *Kolchak The*

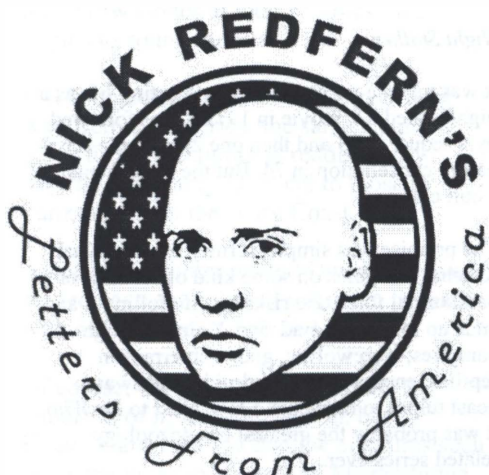
Night Stalker.

It was never a successful show. Starting life as a highly rated TV movie in 1972 it was followed by a sequel in 73 and then one 20-episode series before cancellation in 74. But the series remains a cult classic.

The premise was simple, scruffy reporter Karl Kolchak stumbles on some kind of monster or paranormal force. He risks his life foiling it and ends up losing his evidence. Kolchak fought vampires, werewolves, giant subterranean reptiles, energy beasts, androids, and swamp beast tulpas to name but a few. Next to *Dr Who* it was probably the greatest cryptozoology related series ever.

Two things elevated the show to giddy heights, it's fantastic support cast and the charismatic acting of Darren McGavin. McGavin was born on May 7, 1922, in San Joaquin, California, and received his dramatic arts training at New York's Neighborhood Playhouse and the Actors Studio. He landed his fist major roll in 1945 and from then on made regular appearances on both the big and small screen including the detective Mike Hammer.

But it is as the red haired, seersucker suit wearing, dogged Karl Kolchak that he will be best remembered. Darren passed away on 25th February 2006 at the age of 83 in Los Angeles. Sadly just before his death he suffered the indignity of a very poor remake of the *Night Stalker* series. It feature poor acting, bad casting (Hollywood pretty boy and sassy female sidekick) a lack of monster, no sense of humor and above all no Darren McGavin. It just goes to show that there was only ever one Karl Kolchak and that was the Peerless Darren McGavin. **Richard Freeman**



Cryptozoology Under Surveillance

My newly published book, *On the Trail of the Saucer Spies*, reveals the way in which elements of the British Intelligence community including Special Branch, Scotland Yard, and GCHQ at Cheltenham monitors people within the UFO research field, and, indeed, the way in which they have done so for decades.

The story I have uncovered is not one that suggests the secret surveillance was undertaken to prevent people from getting too close to the "alien truth." Rather, the official spying stemmed from the fact that Special Branch, in particular, had come to the strange conclusion that certain UFO researchers, such as me and Matthew Williams (who is speaking at this year's *Weird Weekend*), had been "hired" by subversive groups to uncover UK defense secrets of a very down-to-earth nature, and that our UFO research was merely an ingenious "cover story" to be trotted out by us in the event that we were

questioned by authorities.

Needless to say, the theory was not just outlandish: it was completely and utterly without foundation. However, I uncovered a copious amount of evidence showing that Special Branch were watching a whole range of individuals who had written about UFOs in the UK in the mid to late 1990s including this magazine's esteemed editor, the good Mr. Downes.

As one Special Branch source explained to me:

"Downes is, as you well know, the chap best known for his Yeti and Loch Ness excursions. But, as with you and your people and the UFOs, there was some concern that this was just a ruse or partly, a ruse, at least. Downes was well acquainted at the time with a number of people in Ireland that we were interested in. The Downes thing was very low-key and didn't last long, but he was watched for a while, purely to see if he was working with certain Irish people. But there was nothing really to it: just this chap [Downes] talking with chaps in Ireland who were his friends, but who we were watching, and who were also interested in those monster pursuits."

The scenario of Special Branch monitoring the activities of full-time cryptozoologists such as Jon, purely because of the fact that they happened to have friends in Ireland sounds wholly outrageous; however, it is something that Jon himself can corroborate. As he stated in his book *The Owlman and Others*:

"It was a Friday lunchtime in early May 1996. [My ex-wife] Alison and I were beginning to suspect that we had strayed into a particularly far-fetched and badly scripted episode of The X-

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

Files. We were sitting in the departure lounge of Plymouth Airport, waiting to put Tony ["Doc" Shiels] on his plane back to Ireland, after one of his occasional visits. Suddenly, the airport lounge seemed to be full of security guards. There were only about half a dozen men in uniform; but there were a number of rather sinister-looking men in black suits, wearing sunglasses, and looking quite menacing.

"A man in plainclothes, who introduced himself to Tony as a senior police officer, came over to us. I was engaged, at the time, in assembling my tape-recorder so I could tape an interview with Tony. But at the sound of the words: 'Mr. Shiels, can I see your boarding-pass?' which was accompanied by the practiced flash of a warrant card in a leather wallet, [I was] prompted to put my tape-recorder away very quickly. They conversed in low voices. I didn't try to overhear their conversation; but I gathered that Tony had shown the policeman all the relevant travel documents, and that all was in order.

"I decided that this was the right time to go to the lavatory. Sitting in the thin-walled, Formica-lined cubicle, I was effectively invisible, and so could overhear snatches of a conversation between one of the Men in Black and someone else over a walkie-talkie. I only heard some of what they said, but the words 'Special Branch' were mentioned on several occasions. I was also shocked to hear my own name.

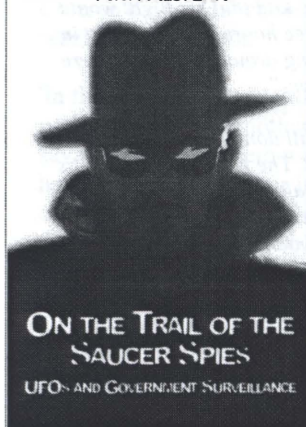
"Slinking out as soon as the coast was clear, I rejoined Alison and Tony. They told me that, with no notice whatsoever, Tony's plane had been canceled. I began to feel somewhat scared. The policeman came over to talk to Tony again, and the public address system asked Alison, as the owner of our van, to report to the Information Desk. She was asked to move our van on the

grounds that it was causing an obstruction. It wasn't. And Tony was told that his flight would now be departing three hours late. The Men in Black were still milling around. I just sat there feeling very paranoid."

Jon concluded: "I still don't know to this day what it was all about. The harassment, such as it was, continued all afternoon; but we were, by this time at least, in such a state of advanced paranoia, that even innocent occurrences were open to vicious misinterpretation. Was the target of this activity me or Tony? Were the motives magical; ufological; or, as seems more likely, political? Or was Tony guilty of being Irish in the wrong place and at the wrong time? [It was] a week when security at all airports and military bases had been stepped up - because of a rumored IRA blitz to coincide with the 80th anniversary of the Easter uprising."

Special Branch sources also maintain that Jon was watched for two other reasons in the 1990s: one related to a Big Cat investigation he was embroiled in, the details of which had been provided to him by a British Army source. In this case, the soldier in question had deep knowledge of the secret affair between Diana, Princess of Wales and Major James Hewitt (the latter who Jon went to school with) that was not public knowledge at the time the soldier had told Jon of the details. Special Branch had come to the very odd conclusion that an unidentified subversive group was manipulating Jon to use the Big Cat story as a cover to try and uncover further details of the Hewitt-Diana affair from the soldier, and then expose it as a way of rocking the monarchy. However, the investigation was hastily dropped when the official world soon learned that Jon was (and still is) an ardent royalist, and that their theories were in complete error.

NICK REDFERN



The final investigation of Jon appears to focus upon a story he relates in his book *The Owlman and Others* about the way in which he received a batch of British Police files on animal mutilations that had occurred at Newquay Zoo in the late 1970s. In this

case, Special Branch operatives mused upon the possibility that Jon had been provided the documents by subversives who were trying to recruit him into their ranks, and that the documents had been given to Jon as a kind of “dangling carrot” enticement. I know the real story of the documents, thanks to Jon, and the Special Branch theories were completely and utterly without any foundation whatsoever. Moreover, background data on Jon and his family was incorrectly recorded in the files and the whole sorry mess was a fiasco from beginning to end.

Some people might find all of the above-surveillance and such lamentable errors in the official files of Special Branch (and other agencies, too) as laughable, and a complete waste of taxpayers' money. It is. However, there are far more serious issues to consider, too: namely the fact that, in the increasingly “Big Brother” state in which we live, Government agencies are compiling files on British citizens

purely because they have Fortean interests. And the fact that those same agencies came to completely erroneous conclusions and compiled wholly erroneous data, with respect to me, Matthew and Jon regarding our Fortean interests seems not to matter to the faceless automatons in power. Who knows how many more files (also containing wholly erroneous data) have been opened on people in our subject by authority figures that believe our research is a cover for working with what they perceive to be subversives, remains to be seen.

It's debatable whether or not “the truth” really is out there. But there is one place where “the truth” most definitely is not: and that's in the official surveillance files of me, Jon and Matthew. Time and again, officials got it totally wrong, and practically had us walking arm in arm with subversives, when we were just doing a bit of harmless research and trying to earn a crust in the process. It really isn't paranoia if you think “they” are watching you and listening to you. They really are. But time and again, the official justification for that surveillance is so far removed from the truth as to be laughable. What next? Identity cards? Constant surveillance of the population for our “own good”? Yeah, right.

It's time that this unwarranted surveillance was highlighted for the nonsense that it certainly is and is stopped. And it's time for us, the people, to bring an end to all of this Big Brother nonsense before it gets totally out of control.

Those wanting to know how and why the British Government justified its nut-job surveillance of elements of the British cryptozoological community, can read the details in Nick Redfern's new book, *On the Trail of the Saucer Spies: UFOs and Government Surveillance*, published by Anomalist Books, New York.



MYSTERY CATS DIARY

It was a normal thursday evening at the CFZ. Me and the boys were sitting down watching a John Waters movie when the telephone rang - it was about 9.45 in the evening. "Hello Jon, it's Patrick Harpur... erm can you do me a favour?"

I like Patrick, he is a nice bloke, so I told him that I would do what I could and waited for the axe to fall. "Erm, you know the big cat conference you are doing this weekend?" I certainly did. It was being run by his sister Merrily, and I was booked to give a talk on the sunday morning. *"Merrily has been taken ill with appendicitis and will have to go into hospital. Erm, can you take over as compere?"*

I burst out laughing. Not because Merrily (a nice lady of whom I am rather fond), was ill, but because, once again, it looked like the CFZ had to step in at the last moment to help a conference organiser. This has happened before with monotonous regularity. I still vividly remember an Exeter University Science Fiction Convention in 1999 or 2000, when - the night before - the organisers phoned to say that the person booking

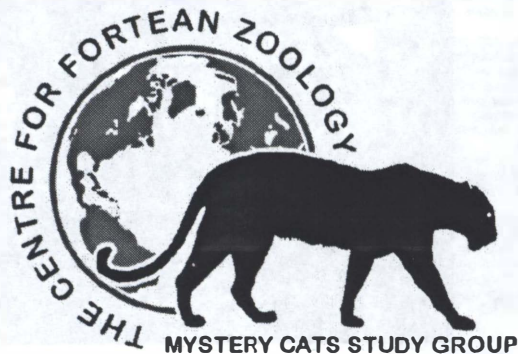
the speakers had forgotten to book any, and could we provide some! This time, the reasons were far more sad, but - once again - me, Marky and Graham had to ride into battle.

Marston Trussel is a small village in the middle of nowhere (somewhere on the Leicestershire/Northants border I think), and it seemed on the face of it to be an unlikely venue for a national conference on big cats. But then again, this year I am holding Britain's largest cryptozoology convention in an even more obscure village in rural North Devon, so who am I to talk.

We arrived at tea time on the Friday, and found Bob Trubshaw from *Heart of Albion* books moseying around with a slightly harrassed look on his face. This was the launch of his prestigious new book on big cats in Britain, and the author was hors de combat. Never mind, we reassured him, worse things happen at sea, and we bustled him into the bar where we ran into legendary fortean John Michell.

Slowly the bar began to fill up with assorted luminaries of the big cat research scene, and dead on eight John gave a stirring, if somewhat psychedelic speech to launch Merrily's book. Merrily is of the belief that big cats are paranormal in nature and inhabit the daimonic half-world described by her brother in his books, so John's stirringly fortean message was more than appropriate.

What the audience, who pretty well to a man were field naturalists, or at the very least, people who subscribe to the much



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



more widely held view that these animals are descendants of escaped pets, zoo escapees and other out of place exotic cat species, made of it I cannot say, but as a massive fan of Senor Michell I enjoyed his talk throughly, and afterwards settled down with him for an evening of good natured banter and free (Rutland Panther Ale) beer, that tasted like a mixture of liquorice and stale washing up water.

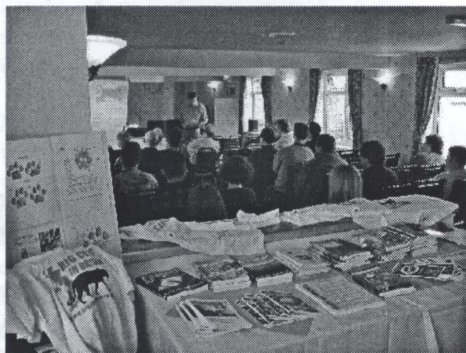
The next day was the conference proper, and we were treated to talks by a number of luminaries of British big cattery. Prominent speakers included the father and son team of Nigel and David Spencer, who have been running 'Rutland and Leicester Pantherwatch' for years, and Jonathan McGowan - Assistant Curator at the Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society, and Chairman of its Mammals Section.

He saw a big cat for the first time in the 1980s: *"I thought 'This cannot be true, they don't exist here'. But I watched it for about half an hour.'* He also saw a female big cat in season walking around in circles calling for a mate like a domestic cat. Later the same year he was watching a buzzard nest near Shillingstone when he noticed a big hole in a chalk quarry. There

were deer leg bones outside. He said it didn't look like a fox earth, but couldn't see anything. However on a subsequent visit he said he spotted two little heads. 'They looked very cat-like,' he said. His suspicion was confirmed when he saw a puma he presumed was the mother walking around the bottom of the quarry. 'I realised then it was obviously the lair of the cats and the two heads I saw were cubs.' Three years later he claimed he saw a puma drinking from the River Stour by Longham Bridge and he says he has seen scratches on trees and smelt *"smells not consistent with local wildlife."*

His testimony was particularly impressive. Over the years I have met many people who claim to have had a string of puma sightings, and many of them - I blush to admit - I have generally written off as loonies, but this man was different. Not only was he clearly sane, but he was obviously a fine field naturalist, and had a remarkable knowledge of Dorset's natural history. If he says that he has seen pumas and leopards a dozen or so times, then I - for one - am happy to believe him.

First up, however, on the Saturday, was my old



friend Marcus Matthews, a farmer and writer based in Wiltshire. His first sighting was of a lynx in 1987, and during the subsequent eighteen years he has researched numerous other sightings of big cats in Wiltshire and its border counties, from historical times to the present day. He has written and lectured widely on the big cat phenomenon, and appeared on local and national radio and television. His account of Wiltshire big cat sightings was compelling, and again he proved to be a sober and eminently believable witness.

Chris Moiser, long time friend and CFZ consultant delivered a talk about Victorian travelling menageries with flair and aplomb. Chris Moiser, is a zoologist and a former lecturer at a College of Further Education. During the 1990s he took several groups of students to The Gambia, in West Africa, for field studies and also spent time in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana, looking at the wildlife. As a zoologist, one of his all-time favourite groups of animals have been the cats. It seemed only natural that, being based in Devon, he should have spent some time studying the "Beast of Exmoor". He has written several small books on the subject of British mystery cats, and one novel. The only other speakers over the whole weekend was some fat bloke with a beard, who in addition to compering the event gave a talk, chaired several debates, sang, danced, and jumped naked out of a cake! Ok, I made the last bit up, but I have to admit that I felt somewhat guilty at having taken such a large role in the weekend. I wanted to keep it as MERRILY'S weekend, rather than take it over and make it just a branch of 'CFZ Industries PLC'. I hope that I succeeded, because I think that she did a magnificent job, and it was the only down-side to the whole weekend that she missed what should have been her moment of triumph!

Big Cats In The Bush?

By Ruby Lang

Mike Williams has had a lifelong fascination with big game, but he says Australian hunters don't have to travel to the veldts of Africa to see the kings of cats in action. Williams, along with a growing number of zoologists and naturalists, believes big cats, most likely pumas and leopards, are roaming the Australian bush.

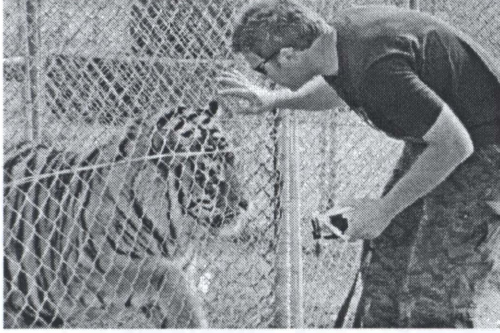
"Reports of big cats have been received from as far afield as Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria," he said. "In many instances, the sightings have been made by people who are experienced bushmen, farmers and naturalists. These are people who know the animals of the Australian bush."

Williams, a NSW SSAA member and keen pistol shooter, has been researching big cat activity around Australia for the past five years.

"Strange stock losses, attacks and unusual predation have been reported in many of the areas that frequently yield big cat sighting reports," he said. "Unusually large tracks have also been found around farm dams and other waterways, indicating the cat[s] are making themselves quite at home."

Williams has been collecting scats, spoor and hair samples from locations where the cats have been sighted for expert analysis and DNA testing. He has also been photographing deep scratches on tree trunks consistent with a large animal climbing and clawing. The beasts themselves, however, have remained frustratingly elusive.

ANIMALS & MEN — ISSUE 38



sighting in Western Australia, near Latham, 270km from Perth, dating back to 1950.

In Victoria, the Grampians mountain range has also been a popular spot for big cat sightings. So many reports were being logged in the 1970s that a Deakin University academic, Dr John Henry, conducted a study into the sightings and concluded that there were, in fact, big cats at large in the area.

Sheep carcasses were found on a narrow rock ledge 300m above the valley floor in the Geranium Springs Valley, in the Grampians. US experts who analysed the evidence found that scat and spoor collected at the site matched that of a puma.

Despite several pieces of footage being shot, at a distance, of overly-large black leopard-like cats in recent years - all quickly bought by major television stations and disappearing from public circulation - nothing concrete has yet come to light.

"It's incredibly rare to see an animal such as a large cat," Williams points out. "For instance, there are puma hunters in the United States with something like 18 to 20 years' experience [who] have never seen their prey until their dogs have treed the cats."

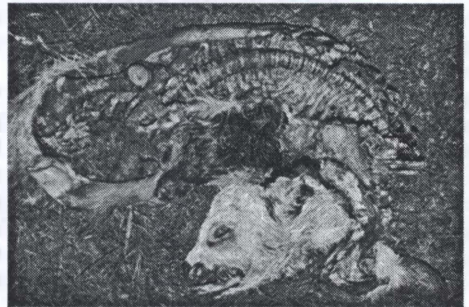
In the 1980s, the Cordering region in Western Australia was a hotspot of big cat sightings, but unlike many other areas in Australia where jet-black cats are reported, these cats sported sandy-colored coats.

Seasoned 'roo hunters failed to bag any of the tawny-colored cats despite countless all-night vigils using spotlights, star scopes and high-powered .308 rifles.

The sightings and stock losses continued for several years and inspired the writing of a book, *Savage Shadow*, by journalist David O'Reilly. His sleuthing also uncovered the earliest known

The reports, however, have not been confined to the mountain ranges. Last year a prize bull, a horse and several sheep were all savagely slain by a mystery predator as they grazed on various farms in Victoria's Pakenham district.

The bull had most of its face torn off, the sheep were decapitated and the horse had its throat ripped out and was dragged for six metres across the paddock to the spot where its owner discovered it.



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

Most recently, in NSW on Sydney's fringe, sightings have been made in the Hawkesbury, Kenthurst and Lithgow areas, keeping the Department of Agriculture and the National Parks and Wildlife Service on their toes.

So many reports have poured in from these areas that the Department of Agriculture has been forced to put up a page on its website to deal with sightings.

In one well-publicised case, a secured deer carcass three metres above the ground, left out as a bait for the mystery animal, was predated on by *"an unknown animal capable of climbing a tree and holding on with claws, there were significant claw marks"*.

Dr Johannes Bauer, a respected academic who has years of experience in large cat surveys overseas, concluded in the same NSW government report that *"difficult as it seems to accept, the most likely explanation of the evidence...is the presence of a large feline predator"*.

A domestic cat killed in the Grose Vale area by something that crushed its thorax and then leapt about three metres onto the roof of the house left more than 50 prints that were *"cat-like in form and leopard sized ... no evidence of nail marks associated with the prints. This excludes the possibility that these prints were made by a dog."*

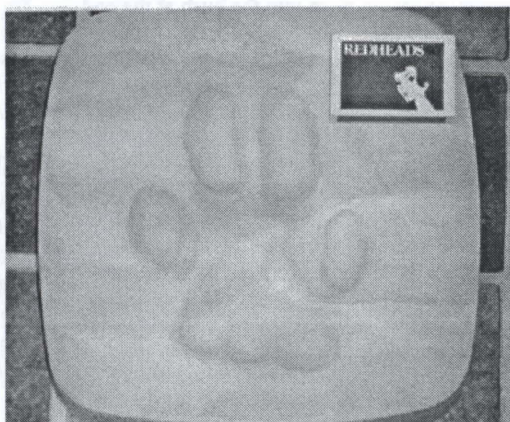
Some of the more compelling local witnesses include a couple who once lived in South Africa and were familiar with large cats, and several individuals who had worked as large cat handlers in zoos - people who know their big cats.

"It's clear from the evidence collected above, by local people and government employees, that there is a big cat operating in the lower Blue Mountains area," Williams said.

"Big cats are serious predators that represent a real danger to the human populace just look at cases in the United States where cougars often attack hikers, or in Asia where people often fall prey to tigers and other large cats.

"If I didn't know better, I would think we'd stumbled into an episode of The X-Files, where a very real phenomena is being purposely discredited and trivialised so we, the general public, won't be any the wiser. It's only a matter of time before sheep, goats and horses drop off the menu and something larger takes the fancy of our newest feral animal."

Theories abound as to how these kings of the cat world may have ended up in Australia. Some believe the cat in question is a relative of *Thylacoleo carnifex*, the native marsupial lion of the pleistocene era (about 1,600,000 years ago), which was believed to measure 1.5m in length



which was believed to measure 1.5m in length and weigh about 120kg. The problem with that idea, however, is that Aborigines have no record of such a creature, nor do our colonial forebears.

Others say that the cats are descendants of pumas, which were kept as pets by American gold miners, let loose and allowed to establish a breeding population in the Australian bush - an idea perpetuated by the many sightings around central Victoria's goldfields.

Feral cats have also been touted as a possible source of the big cat sightings, but those who try to promote the idea that the pumas are in reality mutant felines forget that, genetically, it is impossible for a tabby-sized cat to turn into a leopard-sized beast even though feral cats can grow up to twice the size of their domestic counterparts. It should also be remembered that small animals seem larger than they really are from a distance, however many of the sightings have been at close range.

Another popular story attributes the presence of the large, top-of-the-food-chain carnivores to careless US airmen who allegedly kept pumas as mascots, releasing them into the bush at the end of the war.

Crashed circus vehicles are another favoured source of the mysterious cats, but these stories, while seemingly more plausible, are invariably just as difficult to prove as any of the others.

A more realistic proposition, however, is that the animals were released by either private zoo owners who went bust, of which there have been many in recent years, or by individuals whose exotic 'pets' finally outgrew their enclosures and their feeding budgets. A male puma can reach up to 2.04m in length and weighs around 100kg.

The average big cat requires at least 1.4kg of meat a day.

"If trained observers such as big cat handlers, naturalists, government wildlife employees, professional shooters and farmers cannot tell the difference between an unusual large exotic cat, a fox or a dog, there's something seriously wrong with human perception," Williams said.

To date, the government response to the big cat enigma has been unsatisfactory to many who live in areas of frequent activity. Bureaucratic channels have moved slowly in response to reports and government employees are now loath to put their names to comments in support of the evidence yielded so far, for fear of their jobs.

If the existence of big cats were to be acknowledged by government, Williams says, the ramifications would be staggering.

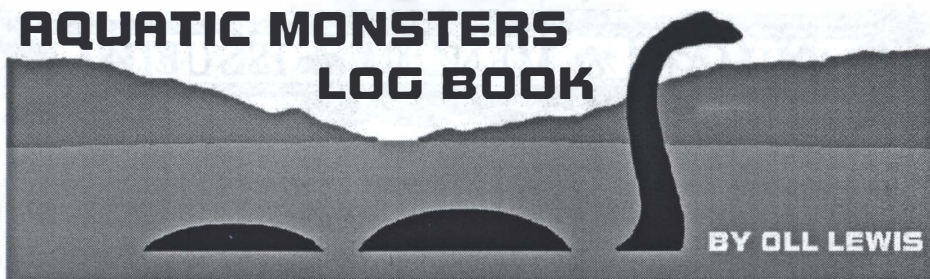
"I don't think anyone in a position of authority will believe a word of it until a corpse is brought forth," he said.

"In the meantime, don't think for a moment that the scariest thing you'll ever encounter in the bush is a 105kg pig. And if you do have a brush with a big cat, hope it's from a distance because you'll never hear it coming."

Williams is keen to hear from fellow shooters and hunters who may have had a sighting, witnessed strange livestock predation or collected or photographed any unusual tracks, tree scratches or kills.

He can be reached at ozeStrange@internode.on.net

AQUATIC MONSTERS LOG BOOK



It's my pleasure to inform you all that the CFZ's aquatic monster study group is now open for business. Our intention is to collate and examine reports of monsters from aquatic habitats, and, where logistics, budget, and time, allows, investigate monsters in the field (or rather in the water in this case). We're also particularly interested in any local folklore or news stories about strange goings on in, or reputed unusual animal inhabitants of, water-courses, lakes or coastlines. If you come across any please post it to me at the CFZ address or email it to me at oll.lewis@gmail.com.

Nessle the elephant, packs her trunk

Recently in the press there have been reports that the identity of the loch Ness monster is finally "solved". Strange, because nearly every tition just

researcher or pundit who has tried to release a book or gain a bit of publicity has "solved" the mystery of the loch Ness monster, or so they claim. However, when these definitive solutions range from giant squid though to driftwood you have to question just how many final solutions there can be.

The latest "solution", proposed by Glasgow museum palaeontologist Neil Clark is that many sightings of Nessie were that of circus elephants out for a swim in the loch. He freely admits that this theory doesn't explain every sighting but believes it accounts for the type of sighting where a long protrusion (often assumed to be the neck of a monster, a tentacle, part of an eel or even one of the antennae from a great snail in various other theories) breaks the surface of the water followed by a hump or two.

In order to explain his theory to the press Clark produced a drawing of an elephant breaking the surface of a river (figure 1). This wowed the assembled multitudes of journalists who hastily accepted it as "evidence" that Nessie had been a circus elephant all along. I don't think it was Dr Clark's intention that his illustration ever be used as evidence but merely a way to illustrate his theory, one could just as easily produce a silhouette of any animal breaking the surface of the water in a similar way, real or imaginary. To prove that point here's a picture of a Pokemon breaking the surface of the loch (figure 2), but that doesn't mean that Pikachu has been responsible for monster sightings in a Scottish loch since the 1930s.

Clark's theory in full is that fairs and circuses visiting Inverness would let their elephants roam free along the shore of the loch and go off



swimming in it's waters for a bit of recreation and a bath, people would see only the trunk and back of the animal and think it was a monster. Put like that, the theory seems plausible enough; however, it is just about impossible to tally actual sightings of this description with the visits of circuses and travelling fairs. Usually businesses of this type didn't keep records on paper of where they had been, because most travelling circuses were of no fixed abode and therefore not easily traceable by the Inland Revenue. The passage of time from the pre world war two sightings also makes the survival of written records that were kept even more unlikely. Another problem with this theory is that if you were running a circus would you want to risk the death or escape of your most expensive high maintenance animal by letting it swim in a murky, cold and deep body of water out of the reach of its handlers? I suspect you'd be put off the idea even more if the newspapers are going mad over there being a monster there. The elephant theory then doesn't really stand up in the case of Loch Ness, maybe the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster will have to wait a while longer to be "solved".



Figure 1: Dr Clark's depiction of an elephant swimming

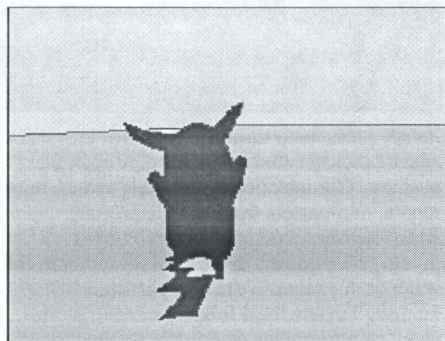


Figure 2: Oll Lewis's depiction of a pokemon swimming

We are the Champlains

ABC in America recently showed footage they acquired that is thought to show Champ, the monster of Lake Champlain. The video appears to show a very large fish, possibly a pike or sturgeon, swimming near the surface of the water and was taken by local fishermen Dick Affolter and Pete Bodette last summer. ABC claims to have had the tape analysed by two retired FBI forensic image analysts who confirmed the tape as genuine but could not be sure what it depicted, so officially there is no confirmation that it is a large fish, or anything else remotely monstrous just that it is indeed a tape it is recorded on and not some sort of magic turnip or something.

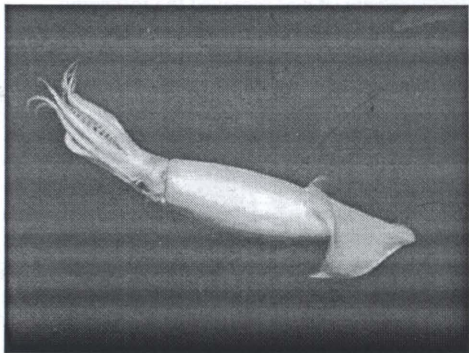
Conservative planning

It has recently been revealed in papers released under the UK freedom of information act that in the 1980s Margaret Thatcher's Tory government and Whitehall officials hatched a plan to find

the Loch Ness Monster. Civil servant's planned to use a troop of talented trained bottlenose dolphins equipped with cameras and strobe lights that would activate upon encountering large objects. The plans were made with Dr Robert Rines and the Academy of Applied Science, who had taken the 1972 flipper photo in the loch (later sadly shown to have been 'extensively enhanced' by the journal it was published in).

Civil servants and the government were concerned that if Nessie were found and had no legal protection every bounty hunter in the world would converge on the loch in a bid to find, kill or capture the animal for monetary gain thus depriving Scotland of one of its most famous tourist attractions and a good source of revenue to the local community. Eventually the government and the civil servants backed out of the scheme, possibly because of fears it may lead to ridicule in the press and because they managed to find a loop hole in existing laws that would give *Nessiteras rhombopteryx* protected status the question of proving whether or not the creature existed for certain became irrelevant to the government.

The final cuttlefish



A large 1.7m (5 foot 8 inches) long cuttlefish was recently responsible for a panic among holidaymakers on Chinguihue beach south Chile. The creature loomed out of the sea next to an eight year old girl whose screams alerted other holiday makers, who stoned the cuttlefish to death and pulled it to the beach. The cephalopod (*Dosidicus gigas*) was attracted to the beach by warm waters.

More Malaysian monster mystery?

It would seem that not only do they have BHMs



in Malaysia but sea monsters too, if a recent find on the coast near the village of Kampung Pengkalan Sungai Udang is that of an unknown species. The rotting carcass of a large animal was found by fishermen looking for bait in the coastal mud. The fisherman who discovered the corpse, Arbain Salleh, claims it is of an animal not familiar to him, despite fishing the waters for 20 years. He is bringing the bones of the creature, which he estimates to have been over 7m (23 foot) long back to the village as the creature rots in the hope that it can be identified. Based on photographs, it is possible the creature could be a large Indo-Pacific crocodile.

BIGFOOT NOTEBOOK

Paul Vella



Sonoma Video Update

You may recall that in January's Roundup I mentioned the alleged sighting in Sonoma County, California by a 'Mark Nelson' I expressed concern at the time noting that his story (which was accompanied by a short video) contains a number of inconsistencies.

By the time A&M went to press, the Alliance of Independent Bigfoot Investigators had announced that the video and story was almost certainly a hoax. Veteran investigator John Freitas who had studied the video had noted that the mountainous peaks in the video were not consistent with the geography in Sonoma, and became increasingly concerned by 'Nelson's' story. Freitas wrote "Without going into more detail, Mark's statements during both phone interviews were consistent with someone fabricating a story."

Just one big fly in the ointment Matt Moneymaker's Bigfoot Field Researcher's Organization proclaimed that the video was authentic, that it couldn't be a man in a suit etc. etc. Moneymaker claimed to be negotiating the video rights on behalf of Mark Nelson.

In step illusionists Penn & Teller, who revealed that they had been behind the video in their 'Bullshit' TV show. They explained how they had videoed a man in a suit not far from their office, posted the video on a free website, and sat back and waited for responses. They show was a little one-sided, and did not give any credit for those researchers who had classed it as a hoax, but it once again demonstrated how quickly BFRO will jump on something that might make

Moneymaker some money. It is hard not to draw attention to Mr. Moneymaker's surname, but I don't think I have ever met a man with such an apt name.

Up until the time Penn & Teller announced their show, the BFRO website displayed the following:

"We don't think the figure in the Sonoma footage is a man in a costume. We would not be able to duplicate the anatomy of this figure, and we doubt anyone else can either.

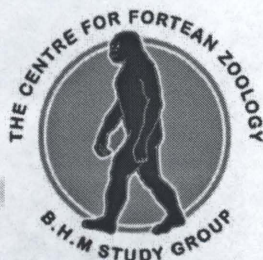
The average person will look at this footage and dismiss it as a man in a dark costume who is pumping his arms in an exaggerated manner.

We see a skeletal anatomy that is not consistent with a human. For various reasons, the Sonoma figure would have to be a fairly simple costume. Yet a simple costume doesn't change the limb ratios of a human, only its surface appearance."

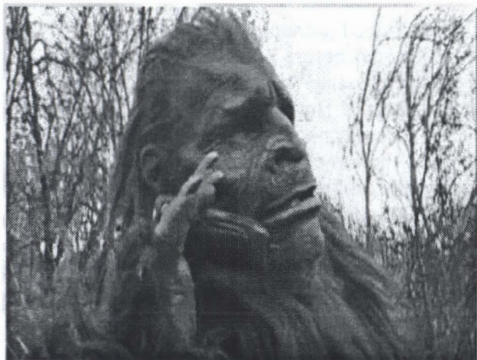
Just prior to the broadcast, Moneymaker went on the offensive, and posted the following to the BFRO website (it was removed the following day):

"Regarding the stupid claim by Penn & Teller that they faked the Sonoma footage.

Their claim is false. They didn't have anything to do with the king



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



footage. They are just trying to get a buzz going about their show. They are trying to trick people into tuning into the program. It's a ploy, don't fall for it.

They were trying desperately to license the Sonoma footage. Mark Nelson agreed that it wasn't a good idea to let them have it. He would have OK'd it, and even encouraged it, if he would have been involved with them. He's a real person, yet they say it was only a front on a web site.

A clever route they are taking now ... by claiming they shot it themselves in the Valley ... They don't live in the Valley. They live in Las Vegas, and work six nights per week there. They only have time to do voice-overs for their Showtime shows.

Notice how they only showed the web version of the footage on their promo. That's the best clue that they are full of crap. They would have showed the guy in the costume holding the mask in his arms. They would have shown clips of how they set up the footage. They would have shown Mark Nelson - the person that a few of us spoke with - but they can only show what is available on the web, because that's all they have.

Keep in mind, as P&T see it, they are breaking no laws by perpetrating this hoax. The hoax is not the Sonoma footage itself, but rather their claim that they faked the Sonoma footage. They won't go to jail for that, or get sued for that, but they will probably increase their ratings by making that claim.

It's a nicely clever ploy when you think about it ... They know it will be difficult to show that they are lying. And any attempts to discredit their claims will only bring them attention as pranksters and help their ratings. So they are pranksters if they faked the footage, and they are pranksters if they did not fake the footage.

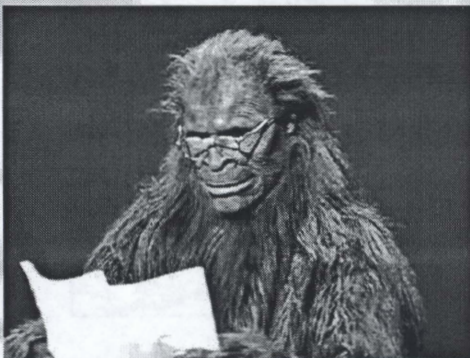
Very clever.

... And bigfoots do not exist, and all the witnesses over the centuries were lying or hallucinating the exact same things ...

.... or Penn and Teller are full of shit and trying to boost the ratings of their Showtime program

....
Which is more likely ...?"

I'm sure some readers by now are saying 'This



guy has an unhealthy obsession with the BFRO', and I have to hold my hands up and say that I just find the workings of the BFRO fascinating long may it continue.

Blame the Irish

As a Dubliner, I was pleased to discover that the first western report of the Himalayan Yeti was made by a fellow Irishman.

In 1921 a man from Tullamore, County Offaly, Charles Howard-Bury, was sent to map out the Himalayas, and figure out a route to the top of Everest. Prior to Howard-Bury's expedition, no European had been within forty miles of the world's highest mountain, let alone climbed it. The man from Tullamore did his job, and he mapped out a practical route by which Everest

might be climbed (although it would take another 32 years before Sir Edmund Hillary managed that feat). While in the Himalayan foothills, Howard-Bury spotted in the snow some big footprints he couldn't explain. In a dispatch to the Times of London, he not only described the footprints, but attributed them to a large creature, the likes of which the world has never seen before.

I sometimes wonder what we have achieved to resolve this mystery in the past 85 years, and whether it will take another 85 years to find what causes these footprints.

Bigfoot Rendezvous

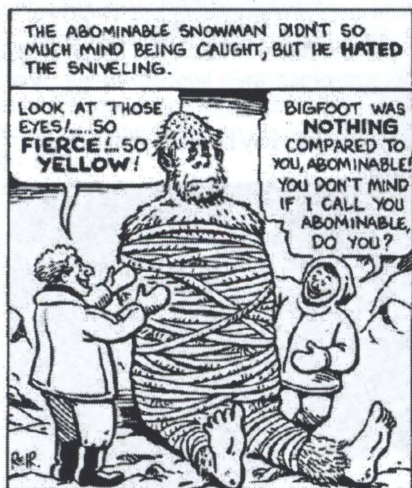
By the time this edition of A&M finds you, the town of Pocatello in Idaho will have been host to a three day convention. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am no longer attending, but expect a full report in the next issue.

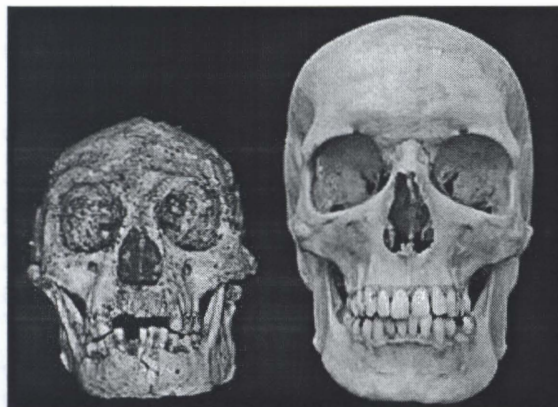
'Hobbit' Species Discovery Challenged

The surprising discovery of bones heralded as a new, hobbit-like human species may turn out to have simply been the remains of a human suffering from a genetic illness that causes the body and brain to shrink, according to researchers challenging the original report.

The bones were discovered in 2003 on the Indonesian island of Flores and caused a stir in the scientific community when researchers declared they represented a new, dwarf, species which they named *Homo floresiensis*.

Some scientists questioned whether it was really





a new species, however, and Robert D. Martin of the Field Museum in Chicago and co-authors challenge the original classification in a technical comment appearing in the journal *Science*. They say that, instead, it appears to be a modern human suffering from microcephaly, a genetic disorder that results in small brain size and other defects. Other researchers also have proposed this explanation. Martin argues that the brain of the specimen, known as LB1, is far too small to merely be a dwarf species. Its brain size of 400 cubic centimeters would indicate a creature only one foot tall, one-third the size of the actual skeleton.

In addition, sophisticated stone tools have been found at the site, he reports, of a type only associated with modern humans, which could have reached the island by the time LB1 lived about 18,000 years ago. And they contended that evidence to rule out a microcephalic was flawed because the original researchers compared LB1 to the brain of a juvenile microcephalic, not an adult. In a response to their paper, researchers led by Dean Falk of Florida State University called Martin's

assertions "unsubstantiated." Martin's comparison of LB1 with the skulls of microcephalics lacks crucial details, Falk stated.

Falk also challenged Martin's comment that such a small brain size would indicate an extremely tiny creature based on the calculations for dwarf versions of other animals. It would be surprising if the dwarf version of an early human scaled down in the same way as an elephant, for example, Falk responded. Falk and his co-authors argued that the size of LB1's brain is consistent with that of adult microencephalics.

Malaysian Sightings Update

Most of you won't have escaped the rash of reports and stories that have escaped Malaysia in the past few months. Since the last Roundup, there is really nothing new to report, except that Vincent Chow, a member of the Malaysian Nature Society has announced the publication of his book, which we are told includes photos that provide irrefutable proof of the existence of a Malaysian Bigfoot. Given the way the whole Malaysian sightings has been handled so far, I'm treating this announcement with some scepticism.

Books

Many of you will be pleased to know that Janet & Colin Bord's *Bigfoot Casebook* has been updated and re-published recently, and is now available from Amazon. 'Casebook' was always an important piece of work on the subject, and was the first publication to list

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

details of sightings. I can't recommend this reprint highly enough.

We also have news of Dr. Meldrum's book to accompany the documentary *'Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science'*. I know of a couple of people who have seen a draft of this book, and tell me it will be worth waiting for. Veteran researcher Rick Noll has said that we shouldn't have to wait too long for a sequel to the documentary, which will expand on some of the subjects.

Recent Sightings

Normally, this is where I would re-produce a summary of the most recent sightings, often extracted from the BFRO database, however such are the concerns recently about the reliability of the BFRO reports, that I will no longer reference the BFRO website.

The next BHM roundup will include sighting summaries from more reliable sources, but in the meantime, here is a recent newspaper report of a sighting.

Commissioner candidate says he's seen a 'Bigfoot'

Posted: Thursday, May 18, 2006 - 09:56:56 am
MDT By CHRIS PETERSON - Hungry Horse News

A Democratic candidate for county commissioner has another interesting facet to his life experience: A run-in with what he believes might have been a Sasquatch.

He also believes he's seen a UFO.

Don Avery, who was also a former Flathead County administrator,

details his experiences on the Web site <http://donaves.blogspot.com/> in posts he made in January 2005.

Contacted, Avery confirmed that he believed he saw a strange creature in the woods of Washington State in the early 2000's near a mining claim he owns. He said the creature was large, but not huge, about 6-foot-6 or 6-foot-8 and "real stocky."

He said while it had hair like a bear it didn't make noises like a bear.

"It may be some type of essentially screwed up bear. But it didn't have the face of a bear," he said.

Avery said Sasquatch, or Bigfoot sightings are fairly common in that area, known as Liberty, in the Cascades. In fact, maps have even been made that chronicle various sightings by a host of other folks as well.

"So I'm not the only weirdo in the woods," Avery said with a laugh.

Avery said his wife has also seen the creature as well.

He describes in this entry:

"It has paralleled me through the brush when I have walked in to the claim. It likes to beat on trees with rocks and has even spent about four to five minutes hollering at my wife and myself. It has a voice like a youngster prior to puberty. It is very high pitched. When it breaks down brush while walking, it is very noisy. They cannot walk quietly

ANIMALS & MEN - ISSUE 38

through the brush. They are just too heavy."

Avery said he has also seen tracks of the creature and he believes it may sit on the hillside and watch the traffic on the highway down below. Avery also claims to have seen a UFO in Gig Harbor, Washington, in 1979.

Avery said he's not into the supernatural. A Catholic, he goes to church on a regular basis. But there are things he's seen he can't explain. "I'm not dreaming," he noted.

He said his son first helped him set up a Web site, strange-experiences.com, but it has since been taken down. He said he was unaware of the blogspot entries, noting the postings were originally on the other Web site, which is now defunct.

From the Archives...

SYRACUSE
HERALD-JOURNAL
SYRACUSE, N.Y., WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 1975

Atlas recognizes elusive Sasquatch

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Sasquatch, the elusive legendary creature of the Pacific Northwest mountains, has been officially recognized by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Though branded as a myth by some, Sasquatch is described in detail in the "Washington Environmental Atlas," a \$200,000 Corps project designed to assist government and private planners.

The book says Sasquatch, also known as Big Foot, stands up to 12 feet tall, weighs up to

1,000 pounds and strides up to 6 feet.

The animal is "reported to feed on vegetation and some meat and is covered with long hair, except for the face and hands, and has a distinctly humanlike form," the atlas adds.

It says the beast is agile and strong, but so shy that it leaves "minimal evidence of its presence."

The corps acknowledges that the existence of Sasquatch is

"hotly disputed." It adds some persons believe that "not one piece of evidence will withstand serious scientific scrutiny."

However, the atlas also provides a map pinpointing all reports of Big Foot sightings. And it notes that hair claimed to be from Sasquatch was found on FBI analysis not to have come from man or any known animal.

"If Sasquatch is purely legendary, the legend is likely to be a long time in dying," the atlas says.

The atlas, prepared over a three-year period, includes sections on Washington plants, archeological sites, rivers and lakes of environmental interest, geologic features and historical and contemporary points of interest.

Here is an early newspaper report on the Deloy's Ape.

THE PINEDALE ROUNDUP, PINEDALE, WYOMING 1929

QUEER BEAST MAY BE MISSING LINK

Monster With Almost Human Head Found.

Paris.—A strange monster with an "almost human" head, which was killed in the Venezuelan jungles ten years ago, was described by Dr. Georges Montandon, noted French scientist, in a paper read before the members of the French Anthropological Institute. Photographs of the monster were projected on a screen. The animal was described as having 32 teeth, no tail and being about the size of a large man.

The photograph, according to the scientists, revealed an unknown anthropoid, akin to the orang-outang species but closely resembling the Neanderthal man.

Doctor Montandon placed particular emphasis in his lecture on the size of the animal, saying it was much larger than the Ailuropus which it resembles in some ways and larger than any anthropoid species ever found in Latin America. This fact alone, he said, made the discovery of outstanding importance.

The scientist's paper told how the monster was killed by Francois De Loya, a French geologist and friend of Doctor Montandon, who penetrated unexplored regions of the Venezuelan jungle on a scientific expedition. One day, while seated in a temporary camp with a companion, the geologist heard a crashing in the branches of nearby trees.

A moment later two ape-like creatures jumped down into the camp clearing, waving their hairy arms. The two men fired and one animal fell.

The geologist immediately propped up the dead animal and photographed it at close range. He attempted to preserve the body or head but, owing to grave danger which overtook the party, was forced to abandon everything but his records in a notebook and the photograph.

A copy of the notes and the photograph were sent to Doctor Montandon, who said he had made extensive studies of the subject and hoped that an expedition could be formed to search the area where the animal was killed. He said hope of forming such an expedition was the cause of his silence on the subject in the past, but now he would be pleased if others undertook the journey.

We are currently compiling a collection of these old crypto-press cuttings.

If you have some, please scan and email to jon@eclipse.co.uk. All contributions will be gratefully received..

The CFZ archives will be open to all as part of the CFZ museum later this year.



The Original Gorilla

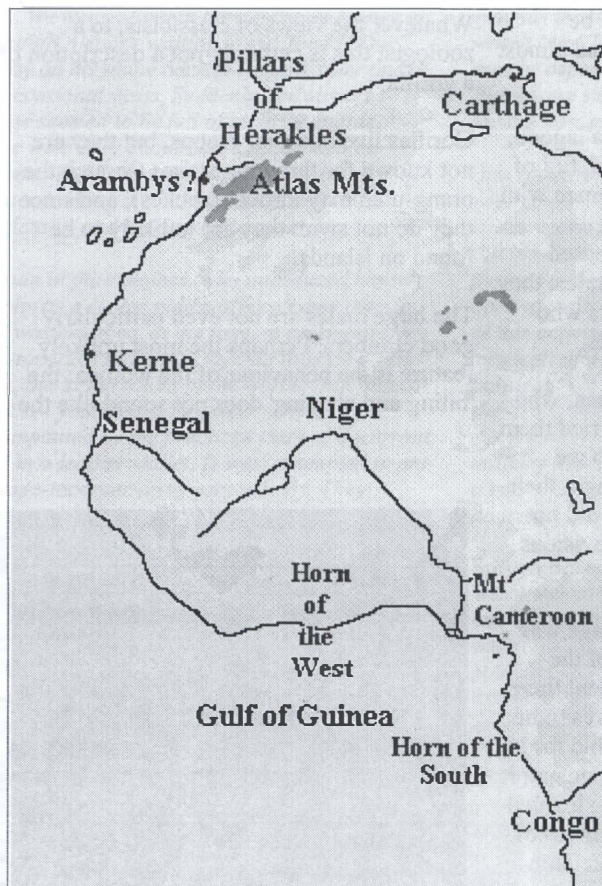
Chris Clark

There were extraordinary voyages of discovery before the great Portuguese navigators of the 15th century, and even before the Vikings. Somewhere around 600 BC the Pharaoh Necho sent out a Phoenician fleet on a circumnavigation of Africa from the Red Sea to the Straits of Gibraltar: it was to take them over two years.

About a century later the Persian king Darius (who completed the Suez Canal that Necho had begun) sent an expedition to navigate the complete course of the Indus. Beginning from somewhere modern Kabul in Afghanistan, they descended the river to the sea and then turned west along the coast of the Indian Ocean, eventually reaching Suez in thirty months. In the reign of Xerxes a Persian attempted to repeat the circumnavigation of Africa, this time anti-

clockwise. He failed, but got far enough south to encounter pygmies on the coast. Around 320 BC the Greek sailor Pytheas of Massalia (Marseilles) passed through the Straits of Gibraltar and turned north. He visited the island of Britain and then pressed on, perhaps as far as the Arctic Circle, where he found conditions so alien that his vocabulary had no terms to describe them.

None of the first-hand accounts of these voyages survive: the book that Pytheas wrote exists only as quotations, usually dismissive, in later writers. However, at some unknown date in the 6th or 5th centuries BC a Carthaginian admiral called Hanno sailed down the west coast of Africa into the tropics. When he returned, he set



up an inscription in the temple of Baal at Carthage giving a description of his achievements. At a later date some curious Greek traveller copied and translated it. The original inscription is lost, presumably when Carthage was annihilated by the Romans at

the end of the Third Punic War. The traveller's version however was recopied throughout Classical, Roman and Byzantine times; it has come down to us, no doubt with errors and additions, in two manuscripts of which the earliest is 9th or 10th century.

One section in particular interests us. It begins:

"Sailing on for four days, we saw the coast by night full of flames. In the middle was a big flame, taller than the others and apparently rising to the stars. By day, this turned out to be a very high mountain, which was called Chariot of the Gods."

Sailing thence along the torrents of fire, we arrived after three days at a bay called Horn of the South."

This can only be Mount Cameroun at the eastern end of the Gulf of Guinea, the only currently active volcano on the west coast of Africa. As recently as 1922, the lava flows from this 4000m peak reached the sea. One day, radiometric dating of the lava flows from this volcano may confirm this part of the story and even give a more correct, the bay called Horn of

ANIMALS & MEN — ISSUE 38

accurate date. If this is correct, the bay called Horn of the South would be Corisco bay in Gabon. Hanno had almost reached the Equator.

'In this gulf was an island with a lagoon, within which was another island, full of savages. Most of them were women with hairy bodies, whom our interpreters called 'gorillas'. Although we chased them, we could not catch any males: they all escaped, being good climbers who defended themselves with stones.

However, we caught three women, who refused to follow those who carried them off, biting and clawing them. So we killed and flayed them and brought their skins back to Carthage. For we did not sail any further, because our provisions were running short.

In 1847, when Dr Thomas Savage was in Gabon, he saw in the house of the Rev. Wilson, a missionary resident there, "a skull represented by the natives to be a monkey-like animal, remarkable for its size, ferocity, and habits." Recognising it as a new species of great ape, he learned as much as he could from the natives of the area and brought back the skeleton for investigation. When he came to assign a name for the creature, he remembered the voyage of Hanno and his encounter with hairy creatures in this area and named his find 'gorilla'. Subsequent commentators on the text have been content to accept this identification.

Whatever the views of classicists, to a zoologist this is certainly not a description of a gorilla.

Gorillas live in social groups, but they are not known for throwing stones (though the orang-utan may throw branches), and since they do not swim they are unlikely to be found on islands.

The large males are not even particularly good climbers. Perhaps the most unlikely feature is the behaviour of the women: the 'biting and clawing' does not sound like the



ANIMALS & MEN — ISSUE 38

damage that an angry gorilla, even a female, could do to someone who annoyed it. Certainly T.H.Huxley, in his essay '*On the Natural History of the Man-like Apes*' (1867) says that there are no grounds for identifying the modern gorilla with the creature seen by Hanno.

So what were they? It is obviously reckless to insist upon the literal meaning of every word in a text which has been translated from Phoenician to Greek and then copied repeatedly over 1500 years before being rendered into English. Nevertheless, the description does not sound like an encounter with any kind of animal, even the chimpanzee which at least lives in groups.

The Carthaginians would presumably have been familiar with the Barbary ape even before they left the Mediterranean, as well as encountering monkeys on the several occasions they went ashore; they would not have used the words 'savages' and 'women' of something that was plainly animal (and it would be a bold man who chased a group of gorillas).

On the other hand, this does not seem to describe an encounter with any human population: the hairy bodies alone would seem to rule this out.

The Carthaginians, who had already carried out a successful trade with some of the tribes living further north, would be unlikely to try and carry off members of

an obviously human people or to remove their skins and take them home as curiosities.

In Heuvelmans' '*On the Track of Unknown Animals*' there is a chapter 'The Little Hairy Men' describing a creature called the agogwe, a small brown or reddish hairy man-like creature that was occasionally seen in parts of East Africa in the first half of the twentieth century. Two typical accounts from Tanzania are:

'I saw two small, brown, furry creatures come from the dense forest on one side of the glade and disappear into the thickets on the other. They were like little men, about four feet high, walking upright but clad in russet hair. The native hunter with me gazed in mingled fear and amazement. They were, he said, agogwe, the little furry men whom one does not see once in a lifetime.'

'Old Salim, the interpreter at Embu, tells me with great dramatic effect how he and some natives once climbed to near the top [of a six thousand feet hill] when suddenly an icy cold wind blew and they were pelted with showers of small stones by some unseen adversaries.'

'Happening to look up in a pause in their hasty retreat, he assures me that he saw scores of little red men hurling pebbles and waving defiance from the craggy heights.'

Hairy men who live in groups, climb well

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

and throw stones at their enemies: this begins to sound familiar.

If it is objected that Gabon is a very long way from East Africa, the same chapter gives further accounts of reddish hairy dwarfs, apparently identical to those in Tanzania, from the Ivory Coast.

An elephant hunter named Dunckel is even said to have shot a small unknown primate with reddish-brown hair in 1947.

Of course, the Ivory Coast itself is hundreds of miles from Gabon, but Heuvelmans believes that the creatures seen in Tanzania, Ivory Coast and Mozambique are essentially the same species, distributed all across Africa; certainly if it is seen in such widely separated places it is hard to exclude it from Gabon.

If the text of Hanno's voyage we have is in any way reliable, it is hard to avoid the conclusion that the Carthaginians encountered not the 'gorilla' in the modern sense, but a group of agogwe; perhaps at that time they were more common than they are now and less wary of humans.

Finally, it should be remembered that Heuvelmans identifies the agogwe with the Australopithecus, a human ancestor three or four feet high that lived in Southern Africa as recently as 500,000 years ago and is believed to have been a social animal.

From the descriptions we have it is not

possible to distinguish certainly between Australopithecus, *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*: but it is a fascinating speculation that two thousand five hundred years ago, when Pythagoras was founding mathematics and Darius was ruling Persia, the skins of three Australopithecines hung in the temple of Baal in Carthage.

Bibliography

Herodotus, *The Histories* (Penguin Classics). For descriptions of Persian and Egyptian voyages see Book iv.

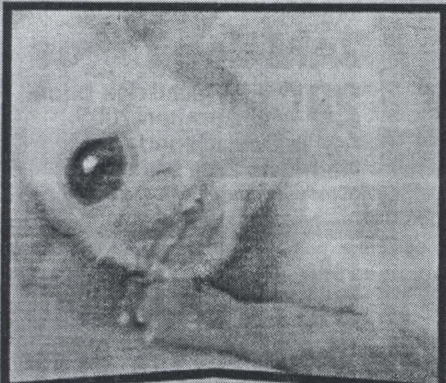
B. Cunliffe, *The Extraordinary Voyage of Pytheas the Greek* (Penguin Books).

B. Heuvelmans, *On the Track of Unknown Animals* (Kegan Paul International). Chapter 19 for agogwe and Australopithecus.

<http://www.livius.org/ha-hd/hanno/hanno01.html> Gives a translation of the Greek account of Hanno's voyage with commentary, though it accepts the gorilla identification. Also gives other classical references to Hanno.

<http://www.isidore-of-seville.com/small/3.html> A great many resources about Hanno, including an alternative translation from the Greek and the complete text of the Huxley essay.

CYCLOPS CAT A HOAX?



Zyklopen-Katze lebte nur 1 Tag

New York – Es war ein Schock für die Besitzer. Eine Katze mit einem riesigen Zyklopen-Auge ist in Redmond (US-Staat Oregon) geboren worden (Foto). Dafür fehlte ihm die Nase. Das Tier überlebte nur einen Tag, ist dann erstickt. Seine Geschwister aus dem gleichen Wurf sind dagegen gesund geboren worden. Der Grund für die Mißbildung ist unklar.

Bild, 9. Jan. 2006

We follow up our feature on two nosed dogs last issue, with a story which gives yer editor a chance to quote an old rock & roll song.

Wolfgang Schmidt, an old friend of the CFZ, and our German Correspondent, wrote this:

"...here is a newspaper clip from the German Bild-Zeitung about a cyclops cat that was born in Redmond, Oregon. It had only one, huge eye and no nose. It died within a day of suffocation. Its siblings from the same litter were normal. A nice, weird picture! I thought it would look good in Animals & Men".

We did a bit of digging and found out that the photo of a one-eyed kitten named Cy drew more than a little scepticism when it turned up on various websites, but medical authorities have a name for the bizarre condition.

"Holoprosencephaly" causes facial deformities, according to the US National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

In the worst cases, a single eye is located where the nose should be, according to the institute's Web site.

However, we have not been able to unearth any other reports of cats suffering from this disease, and Richard Freeman (zoologist of this parish), is more than a little suspicious. He writes:

"There are serious problems with this photo that lead me to believe that it is a fake employing image manipulation software. Firstly the eye does not resemble a cat's eye. It lacks the trademark vertical pupil. It looks like that of a herbivore such as a cow. Also cats are born with their eyes closed. A cyclops cat would have one small, closed eye, not a gigantic open one. The hoaxer obviously wanted to go for skeptical over-accuracy.

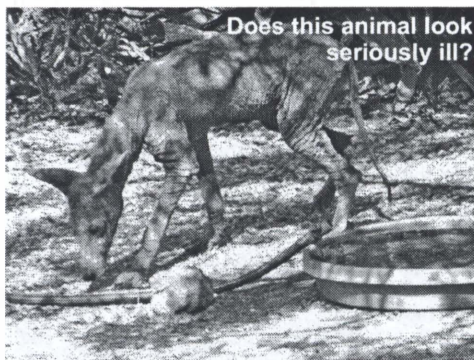
There have been a number of such hoaxes of late such as the giant shark attacking a helicopter and the giant domestic cat. Perhaps this is a case of vitreous humour!"

***"I'm like a one-eyed
cat peepin' in a
seafood store"***

Bill Haley

The Bald Dog of Elmendorf

JONATHAN DOWNES



I first became involved in the hunt for the notorious chupacabra during the early months of 1998 when, together with Graham, I set sail for the Caribbean island of Puerto Rico together with a film crew from UK Channel 4. Over the next few weeks I discovered two very important things. Firstly, that the aforementioned film crew were not the slightest bit interested in hunting for the grotesque four foot high vampiric beast, but were more interested in making a silly film about a fat bloke (me) squeezing in and out of a small car, and secondly that most of my preconceptions about the chupacabra were completely wrong. On my return, I wrote a book about the expedition in which I propounded the theory that the 'creature' was a supernatural entity, and could not possibly be a flesh and blood animal. Six years later, I returned to the island and found to my amusement that this hypothesis was completely and utterly wrong; that I now knew (within reasonable doubt) what the chupacabra actually was, and that it wasn't a demon, and wasn't even remotely vampiric. However, this is another story entirely.

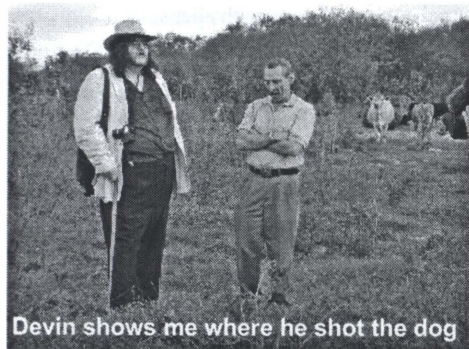
But in the intervening years I did begin to realize some very important things about the chupacabra phenomenon. Although I was eventually able to

explain the Puerto Rican incidents within the framework of orthodox zoology, the phenomenon as a whole could only be understood within a socio political framework. People needed there to be a grotesque blood sucking daemon living in the caves of Puerto Rico. The cryptozoological community needed to be able to postulate absurd hypotheses about it being an aquatic, spined, vampiric monkey. The UFO community needed to be able to believe that the United States government (who couldn't even cover up the fact that their one-time president was partial to the odd blow-job), were involved in genetic experimentation of almost blasphemous proportions. The other thing I realized was that the peculiar, hunchbacked, tail-less kangaroo with spikes had never actually been sighted by a reputable witness outside the Canovenas plateau on the island of Puerto Rico itself, and that the further away from the motherlode one got, the less like the original chupacabra the accounts became. By the turning of the century, the term chupacabra had ceased to be merely a name for the quasi-vampiric biped of the Puerto Rican highlands, but had become a Latino equivalent of 'The Bogey Man'. Everything from pterodactyl-like creatures, to bigfoot like creatures, and from alien 'greys' to roadkilled

The Lufkin beast - uncannily similar to the bald dog of Elmendorf



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



Devin shows me where he shot the dog

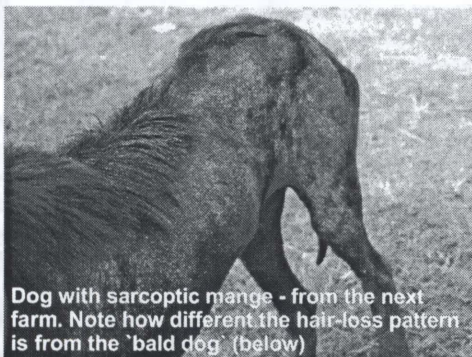
creatures, and from alien 'greys' to roadkilled animals inflated with the gas of their own putrefaction had become labeled the chupacabra and the term was rapidly becoming meaningless.

I suppose that the cryptozoological community shouldn't have been surprised. After all the same thing had happened in Australia. The term bunyip had originally been used by Australian aborigines to describe a semi-aquatic mystery animal, which many zoologists most notably Heuvelmans and Peter Costello has hypothesized was some kind of freshwater seal. By the end of the 1990s however, it had become a catch all term for anything strange, and a storyline of one of the more crass Antipodean soap operas had even used the term to describe a putative visitor from outer space!

It wasn't until my second visit to Puerto Rico in the July of 2004 that I discovered where the name chupacabra had actually originated. The head of the Canovenas Civil Defence team, Ismael Agauyo, told me that he and a friend had coined the term in a Canovenas bar in 1994. Coming from two Spanish words chupa (suck) and cabra (goat), it was a simple descriptive name for the mystery predator which had left so

much of the island's smaller livestock exsanguinated.

In the early spring of 2004, Devin Macanally, a rancher who owned a smallholding near Elmendorf, a small town outside San Antonio in Texas, saw a strange bluey-grey dog-like animal scavenging for mulberries that had fallen from a tree in his garden. Macanally an amateur naturalist watched the creature for a while, and then forgot about it. He saw it again several times over the next few months, and when thirty-five of his domestic poultry, and at least one of his heifer calves were killed by an



Dog with sarcoptic mange - from the next farm. Note how different the hair-loss pattern is from the 'bald dog' (below)



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

unknown predator, he did what so many other farmers have done across the globe when confronted by an unknown animal that they believed had been killing their livestock, and the next time he saw it, he reached for his rifle and shot it. A picture of the strange, wizened blue-grey corpse was flashed across the wire services and soon ended up in the cryptozoological newsgroups on the internet. Nobody knows who it was who first suggested that the animal was a chupacabra it certainly wasn't Macanally, because in one of the earliest news stories about the incident he is quoted as saying:

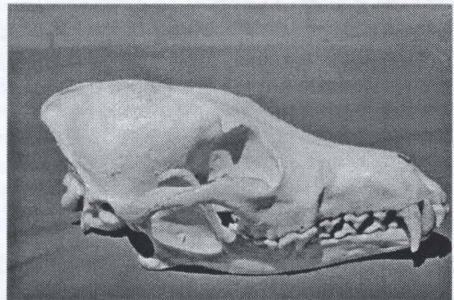
"First thing that came to my mind, is surely everybody's gonna think this is a chupacabra. But it's so odd because it has no hair."

He told reporters from the beginning, as he told me the following November, that he had no doubt that this was some kind of strange dog-like creature, and that there was nothing the slightest bit paranormal about it. However, the damage was done and another news story quoted:

"At the nearby Deleon's Grocery and Market, customers come in to check out pictures of it. One woman says it is exactly how her grandmother described the dreaded chupacabra."

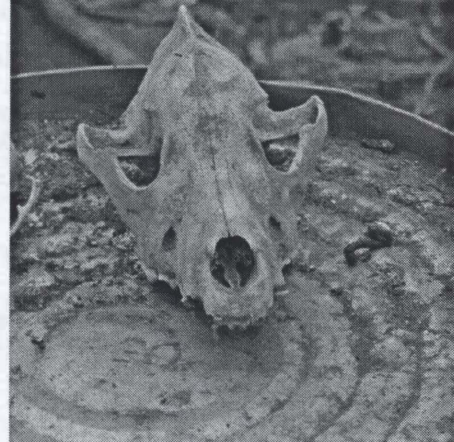
Well, we know that this is nonsense, if only because our evidence suggests that the term chupacabra was not even coined until a decade ago by my mate Ismael back in Canovenas. However, the story spread across the internet like wildfire, and as always, everyone with a vested interest got on board and decided to voice their opinions about it. Whitley Strieber, a gentleman whose main claim to fame is that he made a fortune telling the world about his

nocturnal anal adventures with aliens, contacted Macanally, and took away bones and/or tissue for DNA analysis. Macanally heard nothing for some while, but told me that he was "disappointed" when the first that he saw was one of the few people in the world who actually



Above: Coyote skull from museum collection

Below: The skull of the 'bald dog' which appears to have a sagittal crest



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



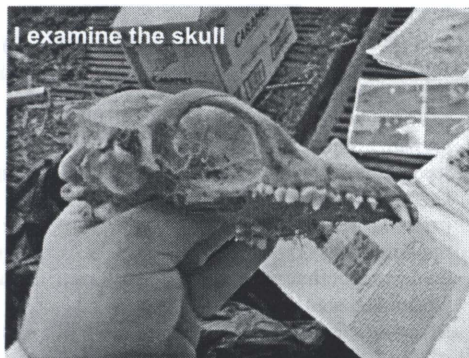
Close-up pictures of the Lufkin creature, killed miles away from Elmendorf. The two animals look strikingly similar.

heard of the test 'results' was when Strieber announced that the DNA "had deteriorated due to exposure to light, heat or radiation" and was unidentifiable. This announcement provoked a predictable backlash, with every kook online immediately deciding that this was proof either that the Elmendorf beast had been the result of some horrific government experiment, or was some 'entity' from another galaxy or dimension.

Luckily more sober viewpoints prevailed, and most people in the cryptozoological community were prepared to dismiss the creature as nothing more than a coyote with mange! This was, I have to admit, the view that I was quite prepared to take, until November 2004 when I received a telephone call from a TV Producer in Los Angeles who was interested in having me present a series on paranormal investigation for the Discovery Channel. Now, I ain't blowing my own trumpet, but as one of the few people in the world who actually ekes out a semblance of a living as a fortune and cryptozoologist, this sort of thing happens all the time. Invariably - and this turned out to be no exception to the rule - they fly me out to make a pilot episode, find out that I am not a wild eyed member of the "I want to believe" brigade, and I never hear anything from them again. So, I have become used to doing my best to get what I can out of the initial encounter, knowing full well that I am unlikely to get any proper paid work out of it. On this occasion I managed to inveigle the production company into flying my then girlfriend and me out to Texas for five days to shoot the pilot (and have a free holiday). It was only when, after a series of ludicrous misadventures, we finally arrived at San Antonio airport eight hours late that I discovered that the subject of the pilot was to be the Elmendorf beast. "But its only a bloody coyote with mange" I protested. *"No it's not. It's the chupacabra"*, said the producer, and glared at me.

"Jesus H Christ" I muttered, and my girlfriend who was a staunch Mormon glared at me. Two days later, we found ourselves driving the producer's shiny new 4x4 up the battered cart track which led to the Macanally Ranch. Having come from a generation who were brought up on the TV westerns of the 1960s I had always imagined 'ranches' to be rolling acres of flat

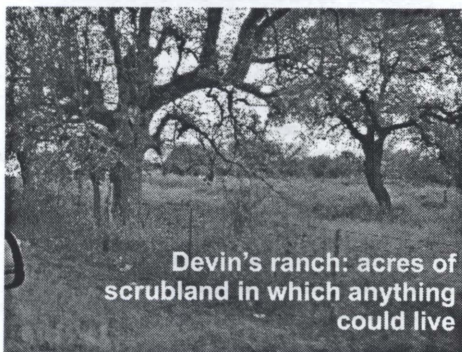
ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38



credentials as a cryptozoologist, and he showed me the location where he had first seen the animal. He described how on the occasions that he had seen it, how it had moved in a completely un-coyotelike manner. *"You can always tell coyotes by the way they walk. There's hundreds of them on the ranch here and I see them all the time. This animal was different. Not only was it bald and blue, but it moved in a completely different way. It was more like one of the jackals that you see on the Discovery Channel"* he said. He also told me much to my surprise that his friends and neighbours had seen similar animals for some years.. Unlike coyotes, they hunted by day, and usually hunted in pairs, and the pattern of hair loss if indeed it was hair loss, and not a hair pattern specific to this unusual creature was identical on each of the creatures. This put a completely new slant on things. What made it even more interesting was the story that I heard from a number of witnesses how on at least one occasion a mother had been seen with two cubs all three animals being bald and blue. And according to Devin Macanally, the animal he had shot had been in the second trimester of pregnancy at the time.

prairie populated by the occasional buffalo and big breasted women waving six-shooters. During my various trips to The States I have visited numerous ranches in several states and to date none of them have even slightly resembled the High Chapparal. This one was no exception. Macanally who was a pleasant looking man of slightly wizened middle age lived in a single story wooden building surrounded by overgrown bushes, and with a number of large (and slightly dilapidated) aviaries containing various motley domestic fowl, and a couple of magnificent peacocks.

Macanally was a little reticent at first. He explained that he had become sick to death of being plagued by the lunatic fringe who kept on coming up with more and more ludicrous explanations for the beast, and felt that the tone of some of the news stories that had appeared about the creature had not shown him up in the best of lights. Later - after I had gained his confidence to a degree, at least - he explained that being of mixed Scottish and Irish ancestry he had little love for the English, and had initially thought that I was just some crazy long haired limey out to make a fast buck out of his story. I managed to convince him of my eresting



ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

I asked him what had happened to the body. I knew that it had been buried, and was prepared for the unpleasant job of exhuming the rotten carcass. Much to my pleasure he told me to wait there for a moment, and disappeared inside his house, to emerge a few minutes later with a large black bin-bag full of bones, which he emptied in a cavalier fashion onto some old newspapers in the back of his pickup truck. Handling the bones I could see that this was no deformed creature; they were perfect, but there was something unsettling about them. They seemed harder and more resilient than most canid bones that I have handled, and the skull seemed to have what appeared to be a small sagittal crest on it.

He showed me other skulls of coyotes that had been shot on the farm. One was much as you would expect, but the other far larger than the skull of the animal that he had shot earlier that year also had a pronounced sagittal crest. This is where I finally cooked my goose with the film crew. I did what I have to admit was one of my best performances ever - a deadpan piece to camera. "We came here looking for the corpse of the chupacabra. Not surprisingly we found no such thing. What we have here is something far more exciting. There is a great misconception in cryptozoology that all unknown animal species are prehistoric survivors. What people forget is that evolution is a continuum. What we have here MIGHT be an example of evolution in action. We might be seeing the beginnings of a new species evolving away from the coyote species as a result of the environmental pressures of life at the beginning of the 21st Century".

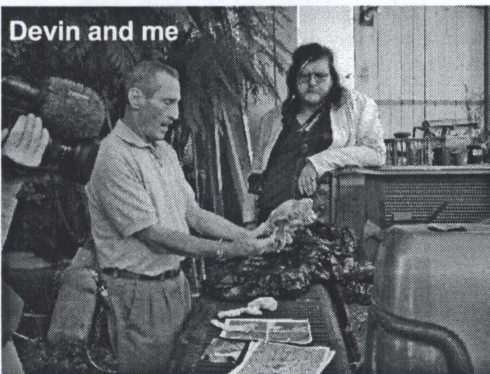
The producer looked at me.

"So, it's not anything paranormal?"

"No, of course not", I laughed, and I could see my burgeoning TV career disappear in smoke.

I have no idea what the Elmendorf beast actually is. I am fairly convinced that it is not a coyote with mange. Whilst in the area I took a series of photographs of local dogs suffering from both main sorts of mange - Demodectic mange is caused by *Demodex canis*, a tiny mite that cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope, and Sarcoptic mange, also known as scabies. I was surprised to see that the pattern of hair loss looks nothing like those noted from the Elmendorf creature.

Although I have my doubts about the veracity of some of the other reports of hairless dogs from Texas - the one from Lufkin was obviously seriously ill and did appear to be suffering from mange, I feel that, especially in view of the accounts of these creatures seen alive across the region, that it would be unwise to dismiss them all as mangy coyotes. Whether or not we are indeed seeing the beginning of speciation in the coyote tribe, something strange is happening in 'them thar hills', and Devin Macanally has invited the CFZ to come back and investigate further. An invitation we are determined to accept.



cfz people



IT'S... DOCTOR DAZ

Congratulations to our old friend and colleague Darren Naish, who finally becomes a Doctor at about the time you will be reading this. His thesis entitled: *The osteology and affinities of Eotyrannus lengi and other Lower Cretaceous theropod dinosaurs from England*, is required bedtime reading here at the CFZ, and we believe that a film treatment, possibly to star Kate Moss, is currently in preparation.

Now all he needs is to find a job!

WELCOME HOME (WE HOPE)

Some years ago, our old friend Nick Redfern fell head over heels in love with a gorgeous lady from Texas, and decamped to the US of A, in search of conubial bliss.

We have teamed up on a few occasions since, most notably when Nick and I went to Puerto Rico a few years ago with the Sci Fi Channel, and when he appeared at the 2005 Weird Weekend with his talk entitled "Bostin, Our Kid. I'm still pining for the Rotunda".

However, the stresses of living so far from his beloved West Midlands are beginning to show and he (with the beautiful Mrs R in tow), have decided to investigate the possibility of moving back to England.

Now, Dana Redfern is not just a pretty face (unlike her husband who isn't even that), and Nicky is fully aware that the fleshspots of Walsall are now't to such a sophisticated lady-of-the-

world, and they are seriously considering buying a house near the rural CFZ in rural North Devon.

We welcome this news, and quietly continue to plot how we can relocate even more of our old beer buddies in the village. Saturday night in the *Farmer's Arms* will never be the same again!

NEW ARRIVALS

Elliot Saunders retired as Corporate Fund Raiser and Electronic Information Manager some months ago due to his increasing ill health. We would like to thank him for everything he has done for us over the years, and know that the entire membership of the CFZ will wish him well in his future endeavours.

As a result, therefore, there have been some changes in the CFZ Permanent Directorate:

1. Oli Lewis is confirmed as Ecological Director, and has taken over Elliot Saunders's old job as EIM
2. Suzi Marsh has taken over Elliot Saunders's other old job as Corporate Fund Raiser.
3. David Phillips is now part of the Permanent Directorate, although his title will not be confirmed for a few weeks
4. Helen Bond, who is totally invaluable as CFZ housekeeper, and who has been invaluable with local fundraising and publicity, has been unanimously voted onto the Permanent Directorate - we just haven't told her yet!



Letters to the Editor

The Editor and his band of merry men welcome an exchange of correspondence on any subject of interest to readers of this magazine. We reserve the right to edit letters and would like to stress that opinions voiced are those of the individual correspondent rather than being necessarily those of the editorial team or the Centre for Fortean Zoology. Every attempt is made not to infringe anyone's moral rights or copyright, and we apologise if we have unwittingly done so.

SURF'S UP

Sir:

The other day I had read your article about your search for the Illinois Black Panther. It reminded me of an occurrence with such an animal back in the mid-nineties in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. During my hunting day's, I hunted an area known as the oil fields. This area is just south of Houghton Lake and north of Meredith west of M-18. At one time, this location was a heavily wooded area with lakes, swamps and abundance of wildlife.

This hunting area was first used by a deceased friend, Chuck and his father. Chuck's father started hunting the area in the 1930's. My father joined their hunting party in the early 1950's and I in the 1960's. Around the campfire during our hunting trips, I was told the story of a black panther seen by Chuck's father in the 1930's. Chuck then proceeded to tell his tale from the

1950's when he was privy to such an event. When I heard these stories, I didn't put much stock in them. I hunted that area for three and a half decades and never once ran into such a thing as a black panther or even a domestic cat. Well, that all changed one late September afternoon in the mid-nineties.

My father and I had decided to do a little small game hunting, namely squirrel in the oil fields and do a little recon for deer. This area has mostly gray squirrels of quite a remarkable size somewhat bigger than a large domestic tomcat. We called a particular area the "canopy" which has a two-track trail running through a group of trees that have grown thickly over the makeshift road. It abounds with gray, and fox squirrels.

As we approached the entrance of said road by car, I spotted what I can only describe as a black panther. I brought my dad's attention to it as it walked off the road into the woods. I saw the cat from the front shoulder to the tip of its tail. I have seen cats like this in the zoo and can assure you it was a black panther. We drove up to where the cat entered the woods but could see no sign of it. We decided it would be prudent to forgo any hunting in that area that day and left. Besides, curiously enough, there was no sign of one squirrel or anything else for that matter in the area.

Sincerely,

Joe Stewart.
Michigan

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TREE

Dear Jon,

The following photograph has just been posted onto one of the paranormal newsgroups. A girl called Kim wrote: "I was going through some old photos from my grandmother's and ran across this one. I thought that since it was Easter



someone would get a kick out of this. It looks like fake bunny ears have been strapped to it... but what is IT?"



It looks mildly like an agouti, but that seems incredibly unlikely. To echo 'Kim': What is it? No-one in my family, or my office has the slightest idea...

Simon,
Minneapolis

DEMONSTRATION TIME

Yo folks,

Just received *Animals & Men* latest edition. With regard to Chris Moiser's cutting from the Scotsman - the Eastbourne warthog is on the case! We have all the local papers for those dates also the minutes of the Natural history Society. If they have nothing I have contacts including the tenants of Bullock Down. Let you know what I find out!

Love all

Sally
Eastbourne

TAKE A LOAD OFF YOUR FEET

Dear Jon,

During the October of 2005 a friend of mine named Vic Harris, who has a keen interest in cryptozoology, sent me a letter regarding something very unseal he'd seen in the Summer of the previous year. We'd been discussing, via email, strange creature sightings, when he recalled a bizarre event,. His letter read as follows:

"I'll make it brief, in August 04 (a Tuesday or a Wednesday) I was at the local park (in Bristol, UK) with my daughter, Megan teaching her to ride her bike, it was about 6:00 pm.

The park is quite high and gives a great view across the city, we had just finished and decided to head for home and I looked out over the city and saw a very large black shape moving slowing across the sky, so I said to Geraldine

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

(wife), "...look at that", and she rolled her eyes and said, "...it's just a black bag caught in the wind", (she thinks I'm a bit crazy with my interest in the unexplained).

"Ok", I said, "...but there's no wind today and that is moving very slowly and purposefully and if it's a black refuse sack it's enormous and it appears to be flapping, as in wings flapping". She had to grudgingly agree.

We stopped and watched it for approx 5 mins as it passed across the city and eventually out of sight, I thought about it all night, I knew I'd seen something out of the ordinary

The next evening Meg wanted to resume her bike lessons and also one of my sons, Sean, wanted to come along as well, so we set off and arrived at the park about the same time. I kept glancing up at the sky, but was sure I wouldn't see a repeat of the day before. So I couldn't believe it when at near enough the same time there it was again !!!!! This time Geraldine had to admit that this was something odd, it was just too much of a coincidence for two black bags to go across the sky line at exactly the same time on 2 consecutive days. Well, I was too excited to carry on with the bike lessons and we headed for home with me keeping my eye on the object as we walked home, I hoped I would be able to keep it in sight until I was able to get back and watch it through my binoculars.

I kept it in sight and as we walked I became more convinced that this was something very unusual.

As we walked down our street we came across quite a few people just stood staring up at the sky watching the black object.

As we approached my house it went out of sight behind the house, I rushed in and got my binoculars and went into my back garden and sighted it again and I was not the only one, several other gardens were occupied with people watching and pointing up at it.

I watched it for approx 1 min through the binoculars - it was hovering over a water tower approx 15- 20 mins walk from my house- it was jet black and very matt, it did not reflect the sun which was still bright in a very clear sky, it almost seemed to be absorbing the light it was so black, it was triangular in shape and seemed to be slowly flapping what appeared to be the rear 2 points of the triangle, which lead me to believe that the other point was in some way it's head or the front of what ever it was. It appeared to be flat with no details that were evident. The size amazed me, using the water tower and buildings around to estimate it's size, I would of said it was at least 35 to 50 feet across from point to point.

After approx 1 min I heard a helicopter and quickly moved my head slightly to the right where I could hear it coming from, it was the police helicopter that we regularly have flying over our area after joy riders, it was heading straight for the black thing, I returned my view to the black object to see what would happen and it was gone !!!!! It must of taken a couple of seconds to move my head to look at the helicopter and back to the black thing. There was no way it could of moved fast enough to disappear from my field of vision in 2 seconds, the sky was clear and I could see for miles.

After seeing the police helicopter, I was convinced that something would be on the local news, TV, Radio or papers, but nothing was ever

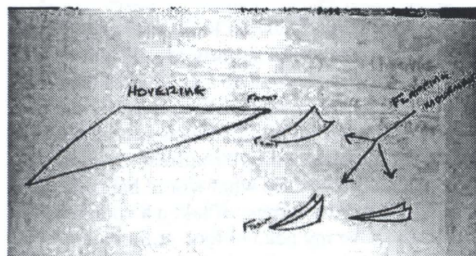
ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

said about it.

From just estimating the people in my street that I saw watching it at least 15 other people saw it and the occupants of the police helicopter obviously saw it as they were making straight for it.

Not sure what it was Neil, but it wasn't a bird it had no natural looking features at all, I'm pretty certain it wasn't an aeroplane, and I'm fairly convinced it wasn't an alien craft, it appeared to be completely flat with no where for any occupants to travel in it.

It definitely left me felling rather uneasy, what ever it was it definitely had a negative feel to it. The thing that really struck me was the total blackness of the thing, usually even the blackest objects seem to have some areas of shade or light reflection, but this had none whatsoever. Well that's it Neil, I'd be interested to hear what you think about it."



Sketch from Mr Harris of the flying 'thing'.

What do you think?

Neil Arnold,
Kent

UNTIL I DIE

Hi there,

Don't know if you folks have ever heard of a southern African anthropoid beastie called Tokoloshe?

If you check it out in the dictionary it'll tell you it's a sort of water sprite, but that's far from the truth as far as the many people who've seen it - me included - are concerned. If you've got Google earth, zoom in on the hills around 26 deg 18' 08"S, 27 deg 59' 30"E.

The large opencast mine there is a cement works that was just starting up when we had two encounters with the beast back in 69. All the Africans in the area are terrified of it, and windows are boarded up and doors locked by sunset.

You must be wondering how a creature can remain undetected in such a well-populated area just south of Johannesburg. Well, looking at Google, development has occurred at a far slower pace than I'd expected and the hills in particular don't seem much different.

Obviously I've spent plenty of time pondering this and I've come to the conclusion Tokoloshe must be largely arboreal - or at least sleeps in trees during the daytime.

When I was younger there were a couple of large apricot trees I used to browse on, at the head of the valley where the quarry stands. Often when I was up in the lower branches I used to get an eerie feeling like I was being watched.

ANIMALS & MEN ISSUE 38

How has it escaped detection? Well, if it sleeps in large trees it's only likely to be detected if these are chopped down, and large trees are generally left undisturbed. In the unlikely event they are chopped down, this job would be done by Africans, who already believe in Tokoloshe as a physical beast - they wouldn't think it particularly remarkable to see one, although it'd probably scare them shitless.

And as I've already said, Africans in these parts don't wander around at night if they can help it.

No scientist would even contemplate searching for it, because just a rumour of this would kill their funding and destroy their reputation (no offense meant!).

My first encounter with Tokoloshe was when my brother, a friend and I were camping up the valley just before the quarry started. It had rained most of the afternoon, but by about 9pm it was blustery and chilly but the cloud had broken up and the moon was almost full.

We decided to pick up more supplies from home (what was then the Protea Caravan Park) and were just skirting a small grassy clearing when we saw a Tokoloshe on the other side. Dark, possibly hairy and tailless and maybe 3 - 4 feet tall. Can't remember if it was walking on 2 legs or on all fours when Franco (our friend) shot at it with his air rifle before we could stop him.

If it walked on fours it took off on two legs, or vice versa. And we took off in the opposite direction - Tokoloshe has the reputation for being as strong as 10 men!

Some time later, when the quarry was being built, back in the caravan park we were just sitting down to dinner around 6pm when there

was an almighty racket of screams and shouts and barking dogs from the other caravans.

It was still light, and we looked out of the window but couldn't see anything. Then suddenly something big was jumping up and down on our roof so that the whole caravan rocked and the roof buckled. We just stood there in the middle of the caravan holding each other, scared out of our wits.

My dad wanted to go outside but he didn't take too much persuading! We knew it was Tokoloshe, but there must have been dozens of them from the racket.

There was the sound of a shot from Franco's house (his dad owned the park), and the Tokoloshes ran off. Now even through my terror I'd tried to see what was happening through the window. I hadn't seen a thing. When we went outside next morning though there were monkey-sized, monkey-like footprints up the sides of the caravan and on the whitewashed wall beside the caravan.

Franco's dad said he'd actually seen "little monkeys" jumping up and down on the caravans.

Despite the whole caravan park being terrorised by Tokoloshes, neither we nor evidently any of the other folk thought to contact the newspapers about the incident. For many years I considered going back to SA and finding Tokoloshe.

I even started negotiations with a TV company who wanted to do a programme about my search, but this was post-apartheid when crime was spiralling out of control there. And besides, when I said it had to be low-key with just me, an assistant and maybe one cameraman they

ANIMALS & MEN - ISSUE 38

were on about hiring a security company and a whole string of add-ons.

When I said I wouldn't have a hope of finding evidence with that lot they said quite candidly they didn't care as long as they got good TV. Talks broke down at that point!

And that's why I'm telling you this now, because if you can pinpoint an area of Tokoloshe activity so precisely you could mount a low-cost expedition and stand a good chance of finding real evidence within two weeks.

My plans were to target Johannesburg (mainly African) newspapers and run an advertisement for information. This might give you up to date info on Tokoloshe activity, and can be done prior to the expedition, although you always have my old sites to fall back on.

You'd also need to hire an African interpreter, as many rural Africans would open up to a fellow African much sooner than to a white (getting Africans to talk about Tokoloshe is very difficult as they are really terrified of it).

Then it would be just a matter of finding the best places to set up infrared-activated cameras on likely bushpaths, since all animals (and people) use these to get about where the bush is thick and thorny.

In case you think Tokoloshe is a monkey, monkeys and baboons are diurnal and have tails. Besides, we knew those hills like the backs of our hands and there were no monkeys. I said its footprints were like monkey prints, but the significance of this was lost to me for some time.

The thing is, they had the characteristic opposable big toe, which indicates an arboreal habitat. If Tokoloshe isn't some weird supernatural beast then I can only think it must be a Pongid. Imagine what the finding of a new Great Ape would look like on your CV! I should point out that I am also a taxonomist - I study African frogs - so I know something about zoology.

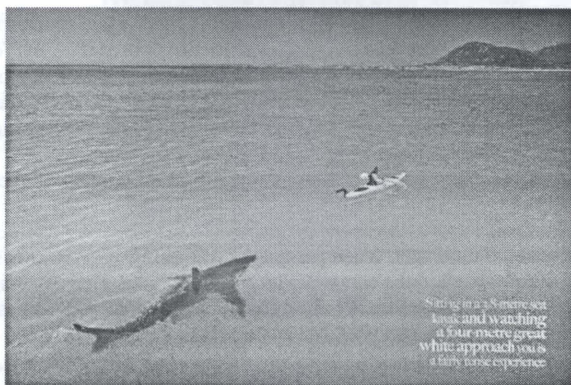
Anyway, that's it. I only got the idea of writing to you when I read something about you in the Metro doing a search for some Gobi cryptid. Hope this is useful, and if you have any questions please feel free to ask.

Martin Pickersgill
Via email

DON'T GO NEAR THE WATER

Looks like fun. I'm 90% sure this is genuine.

Chris Kraska
Ohio



Swimming in a 50-metre sea tank and watching a four-metre great white approach you is a truly rare experience.

REVIEWS



The Short Man of Sumatra: A Primatologist's search for a new species of great ape in Central Sumatra, Banyak Films 2006. Directed by Hugh Hartford and Anson Hartford

The orang-pendek is one of the cryptids most likely to exist. Indeed, it seems so close that you can almost touch it. Twice I have travelled deep into the Sumatran jungles in search of this beast. I have interviewed witnesses and even followed its spoor. So this account of Murray Collins'

expedition was of particular interest to me.

Murray's Indonesian is excellent: he speaks it like a natural and he seems to have a knack of gaining the confidence of local people. Murray visits many of the same places that I did. In Kerinci-Seblat national park he visits the eerie Gunung Tuju or lake of seven peaks. Later he explores the jungles around Banko with the indigenous Kubu people. I felt the memories come flooding back as I saw familiar places and people. There is a shot of Sahar, our head guide imitating orang-pendek's call as he did for us. Murray interviews Debbie Martyr, the English zoologist in charge of the Indonesian Tiger Conservation department. Debbie has seen the short man on no less than four occasions. She was invaluable in helping the CFZ set up its expeditions.

Explorer, Murray Collins goes in search of the Orang Pendek, a new species of bi-pedal Great Ape found in the highest jungles of Sumatra. This real life adventure explores the legend behind one of the world's most elusive creatures. Should it exist, Orang Pendek would change our own evolutionary story.

Sumatra's jungles may well hide this unknown species of Great Ape. Recent discoveries on the island of Flores, Indonesia, prove that short humans existed 15,000 years ago. Perhaps *Homo floresiensis*, 'the hobbit', lives on in Sumatra. Murray Collins talks to local farmers, conservationists and shamans who have all seen Orang Pendek, the Short Man, in some form. This natural history documentary questions who and what we believe.

BANYAK FILMS presents a HARTFORD BROTHERS production with MURRAY COLLINS, DEBBIE MARTYR, BUNYAN GOLDBEN, hosted by GILBERT D'HOOG. Edited, produced and directed by ANSON and RICHIE HARTFORD. Languages: English, Tagalog, English, Subtitles: English. Copyright © 2006 DVD PAL. www.banyak.co.uk

Banyak Films

Short Man Of The Forest

Short Man Of The Forest
The Search for Orang Pendek

DVD PAL

We did not get to meet another English witness, zoologist and wildlife photographer Jeremy Holden, but Murray tracked him down for an interview. What struck me was Jeremy's almost superstitious dread of seeing the animal's face. He saw the creature from behind and said that if he had seen a human-like face on this upright walking beast he would have fainted!

The film has a hands-on look that lends it a gritty, exciting quality often lost with big camera crews on high budget documentaries. Watching it, I genuinely felt like I was back in the rainforest. I could even smell the jungle. One of the most interesting interviews was with a farmer who caught an orang-pendek in a snare from which the creature escaped. I heard a similar story of a poacher capturing a specimen that subsequently shattered his spear, ripped off the snare and ran back to the jungle.

Some confusion occurs over the term 'cindaku'. Sahar told me it means were-tiger (and he should know, being one himself). But Murray seemed to think it was another term for orang-pendek. Maybe in some areas it is just a catchall 'bogey-man' term

Murry now has backing from the National Geographic and has 50 camera traps set up in the area. He is now on his second 6-month expedition into Central Sumatra. If anyone deserves to photograph the short man, it is he.
RICHARD FREEMAN

The DVD is available from the CFZ price £14.99 plus £1.00 p+p (UK) £2.00 p+p (EU) £3.00 p+p (Rest of World). Make your cheques payable to CFZ Trust.

HUNTING THE AMERICAN WEREWOLF by Linda S. Godfrey (Trails Books ISBN: 1-931599-66-1) \$18.95 318 Pages

In 2003 Linda S. Godfrey's 'THE BEAST OF BRAY ROAD' became the only informative guide to Wisconsin's bout of high strangeness of the werewolf kind. Now though, she's back with a more packed overview of a mystery that will quite simply not go away. However, 'HUNTING THE AMERICAN WEREWOLF' is not simply a Bray Road 'beast' reference guide, in fact it's the perfect sourcebook to all things dog-headed, skinwalker, shape shifter and hairy, from the Bluff Monster, to Michigan's eerie Dog Man, from the Man Wolf to Spooker Wolves. Linda Godfrey presents the case for the Bray Road werewolf as a huge file of eye-witness accounts which stretch not only across the United States, but right across the world. Her research has enabled her to delve deep into the lore of the Manwolf, from age-old traditions to obscure cases right up to the present day from her backyard. Indeed, the Wisconsin werewolf appears to be far more than just a spate of sightings and newspaper reports from the early 1990s.

Books like 'HUNTING THE AMERICAN WEREWOLF' are hard to come by. It's jam-packed with all manner of weird creatures, and brimming with accounts never before published. All Linda has done is prevent the evidence, and if this book is anything to go by, then it seems as though mankind has been sharing the woods with many a strange hairy humanoid for thousands of years. Thank goodness authors such as Linda S. Godfrey enable us to peek into this world.

'HUNTING THE AMERICAN WEREWOLF' is campfire reading, scientific enquiry and cryptozoological tome rolled into one. I suggest you snap it up!

It is available from all major book stores and online, and also through www.beastofbrayroad.com
NEILARNOLD

THE SYCOPHANT



Deep in a cave beneath Loch Ness lives a strange figure who steals ideas from other magazines and then somehow makes them his own.

YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT UP!

Some months ago the cryptozoological establishment across the pond was racked by the revelation that TV shows DID NOT TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY!!! Ok, it wasn't necessarily TV shows in general, but one in particular; *Penn and Teller's Bullshit!*

Last November, Gothboy and the ed. spent several days at Loch Ness filming a segment for Penn and Teller's Bullshit - a US TV show whose remit is: "to expose ideas they believe to be unscientific or pseudoscientific through critical thinking and scientific skepticism, and to expose promoters of such things—especially those with ulterior

motives (primarily financial exploitation)".

The show aired on US TV in April, and through the medium of Internet Piracy, we saw it today on a laptop.

I particularly enjoyed the bits when P+T dressed up as Jon and Richard, and on the whole we got off pretty lightly. We even got an endorsement from P+T for the "Richard Freeman Undercrackers".

The people who complained that guests on the P+T show were not treated with respect and gravitas missed the point equally badly! We all knew that the show was called "Penn and Teller's Bullshit" and, even the most dense amongst us, should realise, that a show with a title like that was NEVER gonna be a serious look at the subject.

The CFZ did the show for three reasons.

1. We needed the money.
2. We wanted to do some other stuff at Loch Ness, and P+T covered all our expenses.
3. We are both fans of P+T. They are two legendary stage magicians (who are also rumoured to be members of the art-rock band 'The Residents'), and mostly their brand of noisy libertarianism fits in with our own.



"I'm wearing mine right now" says Penn Jillette, of the Richard Freeman Undercrackers

THE

C

CRYPTOZOOLOGY FILES

BY MARK NORTH



DON'T BE ALARMED,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;
THOSE UNDERCRACKERS
ARE MADE OF CHROME
STEEL.

DON'T BE WORRIED
TELLER. YOU KNOW THE
LOCH NESS MONSTER IS
ALL BULLS**T.



MARK NORTH/CFZ © 2006

LOCATION: LOCH NESS, SCOTLAND

CASE: THE HUNT FOR THE MYSTERIOUS LOCH NESS MONSTER

FOR THE MAKING OF PENN AND TELLERS BULLS**T TAKE ON CRYPTOZOOLOGY. RICHARD AND JON WENT TO LOCH NESS TO HUNT FOR THE MYSTERIOUS BEASTIE. HOWEVER, PENN JILLETTE AND TELLER WERE UNAWARE THAT THEY WERE BEING USED AS LIVE BAIT.

Typeset by the man who plays the piano with his ass

"...Manson had a family"